

Summit hope for 'irreversible peace'

Gorbachov puts priority on arms control

From Peter Stothard and Mary Dejevsky in Washington

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday looked toward "an irreversible period of peace" as he met President Bush for the start of their three-day summit.

Neither leader mentioned their differences on the future of a united Germany at the official welcome on the White House lawn. Mr Bush said he hoped the summit "would take significant steps toward a new relationship" between the superpowers, but he gave a warning that the Lithuania crisis would not be forgotten in their talks.

Mr Gorbachov responded with a message combining specific concentration on arms control with the hope that this "generation of people on Earth may witness the advent of an irreversible period of peace".

Mr Gorbachov indicated that he had come to Washington with suggestions to clear blocks in the talks on reducing strategic and conventional forces. He was prepared to make "a decisive step towards an agreement reducing the most dangerous arms which are increasingly losing their political significance".

The two leaders will sign a number of agreements today, including a preliminary accord on reducing long-range nuclear missiles. Mr Martin Fritzwiler, the White House spokesman, said after the first session of talks that the presidents hoped to have an outline for an agreement containing the "major provisions" of a strategic arms reduction

(Start) treaty. They would also sign a chemical weapons pact to reduce superpower poison gas stocks as well as an accord on nuclear weapons testing, a student exchange programme, aviation and ocean studies.

The tenor of the opening remarks — with Mr Bush's forthright reference to Lithuania and Mr Gorbachov's emphasis on arms control — reflected the divergence in the two sides' priorities as the talks began. But Mr Gorbachov said later that divergence formed a basis for discussion.

Mr Bush lavished praise on Mr Gorbachov as a peace-maker, saying: "In Germany, where the Berlin Wall once stood, a nation moves toward unity in peace and freedom. And in the other nations of the most heavily militarized continent on Earth, at last we see the long era of confrontation giving way to the prospect of enduring cooperation in a Europe whole and free. Mr President, you deserve great credit for your part in these transforming events. I salute you as well for the process of change you've brought to your own country."

"I firmly believe there is no turning back from the path you have chosen. We believe that good faith dialogue between Soviet leaders and representatives of the Baltic peoples is the proper approach, and we hope to see that process go forward."

Mr Gorbachov responded that since his first visit to the United States in 1987: "Our two great nations have travelled a long way toward each other. The world has changed beyond recognition."

"This generation of people on Earth may witness the advent of an irreversible period of peace in the history of civilization. The walls which for years separated the peoples are collapsing. The trenches of the Cold War are disappearing. The fog of prejudice, mistrust and animosity is vanishing."

"My colleagues and I have come to do serious work in order to make a decisive step toward an agreement reducing the most dangerous arms, which are increasingly losing their political significance, and to provide further impetus to inter-action between our two countries."

Later, at a lunch attended by luminaries of the American arts and film world, including the actors Jane Fonda and Gregory Peck and the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, Mr Gorbachov lamented the primitive state of the Soviet economy. "For you Americans, it's all very simple when

you talk about the market," he said. "You have all the institutions and infrastructure. We have nothing."

A trade treaty that could go some way to helping the Soviet economic reform has been completed in the past few days, but its signature is still effectively dependant on Moscow ending its economic embargo against Lithuania. During his visit to Canada, Mr Gorbachov drew a pointed contrast between the US and Canada as trading partners, noting that Soviet-Canadian trade had never been "politicized".

On the crucial summit question of Germany, the American side was yesterday reported to have finalized a nine-point plan to reassure the Soviet Union about the security implications of a united Germany in Nato. That includes a commitment to enhance the conventional forces talks in Vienna with the proposal on the reduction of all forces in central Europe. Although the Bush administration made it clear only this week that it would not be proposing a deal that covered Germany alone, one of the American ideas is apparently that no Nato forces be stationed in what is now East Germany.

The US is also prepared to offer some security role to the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), an accelerated programme for removing short-range nuclear missiles in Germany and the promise of increased economic help. Taken together with German commitments on its borders and non-nuclear status, the US hopes the total package might be enough for progress.

Mr James Baker, the American Secretary of State, who held separate talks with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, said earlier yesterday that the summit would look beyond the round of strategic arms talks that is due to result in a treaty later this year. He expected also "an agreement on what the next stage of strategic arms discussions is".

Mr Gorbachov appeared in a relaxed and confident mood as he reviewed a US ceremonial guard of pipes and drummers on the south lawn of the White House. Tailoring his words to suit his surroundings, he referred to "the capital of trust and co-operation accumulated in recent years" which had to be "protected and constantly increased".

Start optimism, page 10
Hollywood glitz, page 10

UN dismisses man in charge of ivory ban

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE man charged with administering the worldwide ban on the trade in ivory is being dismissed by the United Nations. Mr Eugene Lapointe, secretary-general of the Lausanne-based Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), is being relieved of his position by Dr Mostafa Tolba, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.

Mr Lapointe, who has headed CITES since 1982, last year brought a growing tide of criticism against him to a head

when he actively campaigned against an ivory trade ban, which was eventually brought in at the CITES conference in Lausanne in October to save the African elephant from extinction at the hands of ivory poachers.

At the meeting, he was openly accused of financial mismanagement. Dr Tolba's deputy said yesterday: "The inquiry found no evidence of wrongdoing or mishandling of funds on Mr Lapointe's part."

CO warning, page 22



Summit salutes: President Gorbachov shoulder-to-shoulder with President Bush during the opening ceremonies

British cut in Rhine Army to stay secret

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MR ALAN Clark, one of the ministers involved in the Government's secret review of Britain's defence commitments, said yesterday there was no doubt that the British Army of the Rhine would be reduced.

However, Mr Clark, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, declined to state the number of units that could be withdrawn from West Germany. Speaking on BBC Radio Four's *Today* programme, he said the figures on troop and equipment deployments were "genuine secrets".

Mr Clark's latest remarks came as it emerged that the Ministry of Defence is not ready to produce an interim paper on the progress of the review to Cabinet ministers. There had been speculation that a progress report would be presented early this month.

The review is already causing concern in Whitehall because of the fear in some quarters, notably the Foreign Office and the Treasury, that it will end up as a cost-cutting exercise affecting all the armed services equally rather than being a genuine revision of defence commitments.

Ministry of Defence sources emphasized that it was difficult to envisage the scrapping of any of the main commitments — home defence, British forces in Germany, the Royal Navy's Eastern Atlantic role and the nuclear deterrent.

However, Mr Clark disclosed that the review is examining ordering three, not four, Trident submarines.

● The British Army is short of 5,000 officers and men, according to quarterly figures published yesterday.

Links improved, page 10

Government 'delayed dirty beaches action'

By MARK SOUSTER

DELAYING tactics by the Government aimed at fending off an EC prosecution over the quality of Blackpool beach, at a time when it was preparing for the privatization of the water industry, are revealed in documents in the possession of *The Times*.

The confidential papers show that in 1986 the Department of the Environment feared it would lose any prosecution before the European Court of Justice and that the financial implications would damage the successful flotation of the industry.

In a draft document dated May 30 1986 it was stated "an action before the court during the privatization discussions or flotations would have wide-ranging national implications going well beyond Blackpool".

It was also said that the cost of cleaning up Britain's beaches, then estimated at £600 million, could have an effect on the privatization of the water authorities.

The Commission felt Brit-

ain was in breach of the 1976 Bathing Water Directive because Blackpool had not been included in the list of designated bathing areas and because the water quality there did not meet the required standards. The Commission felt the Government was not taking the Directive sufficiently seriously because it had only nominated 27 beaches by 1986 whereas other EC countries had volunteered 8,000.

It was confirmed this week that the EC is to prosecute Britain because of pollution at Blackpool, Formby and Southport, six months after the industry was sold off. The documents also refer to outstanding complaints against Southport and Formby dating to the same time.

The documents, passed to *The Times* by the environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth, suggest government policy towards the 1976 Bathing Water Directive was aimed at preventing action by

the European Court of Justice until after flotation.

The revelation is likely to cause political embarrassment to the Government as Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, promised a vigorous defence of the Government's pollution record after the prosecutions were announced. Mr Bryan Gould, shadow Environment Secretary, said: "This shows the priority the Government gives to its political objectives, rather than to maintain environmental standards." He said the news

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France defies EC on beef ban

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND SUSAN MACDONALD

FRANCE yesterday rejected demands from Britain and the European Commission for the "immediate" lifting of its ban on imports of British beef and cattle, imposed ostensibly because of fears that the "mad cow" disease could affect French consumers.

The French Ministry of Agriculture indicated that the ban would stay at least until a team of French veterinary experts had reported on a meeting they were holding last night with Mr Keith Meldrum, the Government's chief veterinary officer.

M. Henri Nallet, the French Minister of Agriculture, said: "We have taken these severe measures against the UK so that French people can eat meat in safety." Sources in Brussels, however, said they were hopeful the French could be persuaded to lift the ban in a few days.

In London, the National Farmers' Union urged the Government to take legal action against France to recover the cost of supporting the beef market if prices collapsed.

Mr Raymond MacSharry, European Commissioner for Agriculture, supported the British assertion that the French ban was unjustified on health grounds. Britain maintains that the real motive behind the French ban is concern at the inroads being made into the French market by British beef.

France has had 109 cases brought against it for breach of EC law by the European Commission, second only to Italy with 224. In most cases, however, the French have mended their ways under Commission pressure.

Big losses feared, page 8
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INSIDE

Algae toxin in crab samples

A warning not to eat shellfish caught between the Humber and Montrose was reinforced by the Department of Health last night after traces of a potentially fatal toxin were found in samples of crab meat.

The announcement came after tests by marine scientists on lobsters and crabs initiated when the toxin, which can cause paralytic poisoning, was found last week in mussels caught off Tyneside. Page 2

Film cancelled

Ulster Television will not show the drama-documentary *Shoot to Kill* on the Stalker affair, as legal proceedings are outstanding. Sir John Hermon, former RUC Chief Constable, claims it contains inaccurate information. Page 2

Marcos collapse

Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady, aged 60, was carried from her fraud trial in New York on a stretcher after coughing blood and collapsing in the courtroom. Page 11

Cleaner image

West Yorkshire's heavy industries are gradually being replaced by banks, law firms and other cleaner enterprises. A Special Report surveys the new scene. Pages 31-33

Sánchez out

Aranza Sánchez Vicario, the defending champion, was knocked out of the women's singles at the French Open tennis tournament by Mercedes Paz of Argentina. Page 44

TOMORROW

Future of cars

What will be driving in 10, 20 or 30 years? A special colour supplement — free with *The Times* tomorrow in association with *Car* magazine — examines the likely cars of tomorrow.

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Up to 30 Van Goghs are branded as fakes

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 30 paintings officially attributed to Vincent Van Gogh are fake, a leading expert says. Many are in Japan, which has demonstrated its love of the Dutch Post-Impressionist by breaking the world price record for any work of art three times in recent years in buying his work.

Dr Roland Dorn, a Van Gogh expert from West Germany's Museum Folkwang, in Essen, was due to brand the works as fakes at a symposium on the artist at London's National Gallery today. But his workload in preparing exhibitions in Essen and Amsterdam have meant that his place has to be taken by Mr Hans Van Crimpen, curator of the

Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. He will discuss unexpurgated letters of Van Gogh, published last month.

Dr Dorn believes that fellow art historians have been hiding their collective head in the sand on the subject.

"It is difficult to speak of things like this. My colleagues prefer discussing things which are not so difficult or dangerous. Some of the owners of the paintings will not be so glad. I want to pull down this wall of silence and get to a higher level of discussion about this problem."

Dr Dorn had planned to discuss a series of pairs of paintings, each pair having the same subject, but only one being in his opinion authentic.

His examples include two versions of a painting of a mower in a field,

now in the national museum in Stockholm and the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio. The former, he believes is a fake, being of a totally different, and inferior style to the Ohio version, which he believes is genuine.

He also complies with misgivings expressed last month about three self-portraits, including one at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, as well as a "mass" of still lifes attributed to the Paris period.

"I think we have 20 to 30 works in the 1970 *catalogue raisonné* (the definitive list) which don't really belong," Dr Dorn says.

Having been questioned by art historians as long ago as the 1940s, the Stockholm painting has spent the intervening years in the museum's

basement.

"From that time on it was discussed several times, but unfortunately this didn't lead to the decision not to include it in the *catalogue raisonné* of 1970," Dr Dorn says.

"We are still prolonging the problem which for a large part of the specialists is more or less evident."

Many of the fakes are believed to have been produced between 1900 and 1914, or 10 to 14 years after the artist's death, and when, in Dr Dorn's words, "Van Gogh's fame rose throughout Europe and even to America."

They appear to have been either cynical exercises in profit making, or copies by admiring artists practising the great man's technique, and experimenting with colour.

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What the FoE documents show on policy for bathing beaches

DOCUMENTS produced by Friends of the Earth show that as early as January 1986 the Government feared it could face and lose an EC prosecution over Blackpool beach and that that could have serious implications for the privatization of the water authorities.

These are extracts from the documents given to *The Times*: A document drawn up for a meeting at 10.30 am on 23 January, 1986, by Mr P T McIntosh, of the Department of the Environment's Water Quality Division, records:

"During 1985 the Commission of the European Communities told us that they had received a formal complaint that the UK Government was not applying the 'bathing water' directive correctly in respect of Blackpool and at two other places. We have answered the questions raised by the commission. It is understood that as regards Blackpool these replies

were not considered satisfactory and that the commission will very probably take action against the UK in the European Court of Justice. This may be used as a more general attack on the UK's approach to the directive."

On March 24, 1986, Mr McIntosh wrote to Mr Waldegrave's office: "In your minute of 17 March you asked for advice on the minister's comment about the identification of further bathing waters."

"There is no fundamental reason why we cannot identify further bathing waters. However, there are some strong practical reasons why it might be preferable not to do so now."

"We are at present discussing with the Commission of the European Communities how we might avoid being taken to the European Court of Justice in respect of the non-identification of Blackpool. Part of a possible bargain would be the identification of further waters and we

should not wish to give this away too soon ...

"However, we could not pick and choose waters so as to include only the better ones. We should have to include poor ones as well if identification is to be anything more than a cosmetic exercise. Indeed, a cosmetic exercise would probably be counter-productive. Adverse publicity would be generated and it would be difficult to explain to the commission how our action fitted in with the letter and the spirit of the 'bathing water' directive. Indeed, we could well face further proceedings ...

"The cost of bringing all our waters up to the directive's standards are not known in detail but we have estimated some £600 million for the present survey waters. Much of this money would have been spent in any event but there will be extra spending, while some expenditure will be incurred sooner than would otherwise have been the case. The cost of these

programmes could have an effect on the privatization of the water authorities."

Mr McIntosh wrote "an extra note" on April 24, 1986:

"In confidence (because of the wider implications of the Commission's letter/action becoming public) I have put Brian Oldfield (chief executive of the North West Water Authority) in the picture ... While indicating some sympathy, I pointed out that the situation was probably not sustainable and that, in the event and to avoid successful ECJ proceedings which could have much wider implications — both politically and in terms of changing WA programmes everywhere — it was likely that something would have to be done. I instanced a firm scheme might have to be put in the programme and be starting soon."

An unsigned paper headed Draft EQO Paper — for 20/5/86 pm — states:

"The commission considers that

the UK is in breach of Directive 76/160/EEC by reason of not including Blackpool in its list of waters and because the water quality there does not meet the required standards ...

"DOE and FCO lawyers have advised that if the case were pursued to the European Court of Justice we would very likely lose ... Blackpool is considered by the commission to be one of the many instances where the UK is not applying the directive correctly ... The commission is using the Blackpool case to mount a general attack on UK policy for bathing water and what it considers to be our non-observance of the directive."

"Blackpool waters do not meet the directive's standards. A suitable improvement scheme would cost around £35 million but none is planned at present ...

It is clear that a firm promise of early action on Blackpool and a general policy statement including

specific programmes are essential ...

"In spite of the medical advice that there is generally no harm, it is hard to defend a situation where sewage, often raw, is discharged near such beaches and where the waters do not meet the directive's standards."

"Our nomination for the purposes of the directive of only 27 waters in 1979 — which was done by the Government to hold down the pressures on expenditure — was contrary to the intention, though not the letter, of the directive. However, we do have many good waters and many schemes are in hand or planned. There is a fairly good story to tell and we could certainly make more of it. Except — and even this will be expensive — for bringing forward expenditure on Blackpool and maybe at a few other places, we think adequate assurances can be given to the commission without the need for significant additional expenditure or for substantially revising existing plans and priorities ...

"An agreement with the commission must now be preferable to an action with all the attendant publicity and uncertain outcome. An action before the ECJ during the privatization discussions or flotations would have wide-ranging national implications going well beyond Blackpool and the North West Water Authority ...

"Can we have a 'new policy' which does not call (Blackpool and possibly a few other special exceptions apart) for actual major new action and expenditure? We think this is possible but good presentation will be needed. Any major changes other than at a few places would require a significant shift in water authority priorities and/or additional expenditure ... Given privatization, the analogue of extra EFL [external financing limits] is higher charges ... and/or a lower sale price."

Ulster TV cancels 'shoot to kill' film after accuracy row

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SIR John Hermon, former Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was at the centre of a dispute yesterday with the makers of a television drama-documentary, based on the "shoot to kill" affair in which he is portrayed by an actor.

In an interview at his home in Ulster, Sir John said the Yorkshire Television film, *Shoot to Kill*, contains false and inaccurate information and was neither a factual nor objective portrayal of the shootings in 1982.

Within hours of Sir John's comments, Ulster Television, independent television's regional station in Northern Ireland, announced that it had decided not to broadcast the four-hour documentary. The film has been cleared for the Independent Broadcasting Authority network for two two-hour slots during peak viewing time next Sunday and Monday.

Last night, Ulster TV would not comment on speculation that its decision, which will deprive it of one of its biggest audiences of the year, was linked to Sir John's criticism. The company said lawyers had advised it that, because legal proceedings, including inquiries, connected with the shootings remain outstanding, the company would be in contempt if it went ahead with the broadcast. Mr Peter

Kosminsky, director of *Shoot to Kill*, sharply criticized UTV's decision, which he said he found difficult to understand. He said that, given the profusion of articles and books on the Stalker affair in recent years, it was baffling that UTV should now accept legal advice suggesting the film could prejudice juries at inquiries which may not be heard for a year.

The film portrays the inquiry by Mr John Stalker, the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, into the killings by the RUC of six unarmed men in Co Armagh, which sparked allegations of a shoot to kill policy by the security forces.

Mr John Thorburn, a former detective chief superintendent at Manchester, who was Mr Stalker's number two on the inquiry, acted as consultant to Zenith Productions, the independent company that made the film for YTV.

Sir John, who saw *Shoot to Kill* with a number of senior RUC officers at a private screening in Belfast two weeks ago, said that although he had offered his co-operation to YTV, the company had turned him down. "I identified, and rejected as being totally false, several scenes relating to me as chief constable," YTV and Zenith rejected Sir John's claims. They

said the programme, based on "known facts" surrounding the shootings, was researched by a team that normally worked on factual documentaries. They said they had offered Sir John a chance to join a studio discussion after the broadcast, but he had declined to take it up.

The most controversial sequence in the film concerns suggestions that three RUC officers were allegedly "sacrificed" to protect or "save" an informer within the ranks of the IRA. Actors representing the Stalker team of detectives voice suspicions at one point that the killing of the three officers at Kinneigh, near Lurgan, could have been avoided.

Members of the Irish parliament yesterday picketed the central Dublin headquarters of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, in protest at the murder of two Australian tourists in the Dutch town of Roermond on Sunday.

One of the group, Mr Austin Currie, once a leading figure in Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, but now a Dail representative for the Irish Fine Gael opposition party, said: "The IRA murders in our name. So, therefore, we should take every opportunity to indicate what we think of them, to express our revulsion at their sub-human conduct."



Traditional break: Mrs Heather Handley serving tea at the Chelmsford Croquet Club yesterday during a break in the men's and women's national championships. The club has hosted the competition for the past 70 years

Testing reveals algae toxin in samples of crab

By PETER DAVENPORT

A WARNING that people should not eat shellfish caught off the north-east coast between the Humber and Montrose was reinforced by the Department of Health last night after traces of a potentially fatal toxin were found in samples of crab meat.

The announcement came after extensive tests on lobsters and crabs by marine scientists at the Ministry of Agriculture laboratories at Weymouth in Dorset. They had been initiated after the toxin, which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, was found in mussels caught off the Tyne coast at the end of last week.

The toxin comes from the algae *dinoflagellates*, which flourishes in sun and can attack the central nervous system in humans, leading to paralysis and even death. There have been 40 outbreaks of such poisoning since 1814, the biggest and most recent in 1968 when 78 people fell ill after eating mussels caught off the north-east coast.

The first warning was issued at the weekend and led to an outcry from the shellfish industry. Fishermen said the Government had over-reacted, threatening many of them with financial ruin, by warning the public against eating shellfish when traces of toxin had been found only in crustaceans.

The Department of Health said last night it could not lift the warning because the tests had shown traces of the toxin

in crab meat. "The significance of this cannot be determined until further test results are available. All locally caught shellfish including crustaceans, eg crabs, lobsters, shrimps and prawns caught between the Humber and Montrose could cause illness and must not be eaten."

The department added: "This toxin can be fatal and we cannot afford to run the risk of having one person die, although we can quite understand how the fishermen feel. We have to put public safety first."

Bone in car park thought to be human

FRAGMENTS of bone found by police searching under an east London car park for the remains of missing boys are thought to be human, Scotland Yard said yesterday (Stewart Tindler writes). Full confirmation from a bone expert is expected today.

Part of an arm and other fragments were found earlier this week after police started to search the car park behind a synagogue in Clapton, east London. Police started digging at the site last week and are expected to begin again today. For nine months detectives have been investigating allegations that four boys, aged between eight and 16, were killed by a paedophile group some years ago.

Last week a prisoner was brought to the site to help the search. It is feared that bodies could have been buried at a number of sites around London.

Sky complaints
Lothian councillors heard yesterday of more than 500 complaints about Sky satellite television salesmen. A Sky spokesman said talks with officials had cleared up any problems. "There is no question of customers being dishonestly persuaded to sign long-term agreements."

Life ban on dog
The Kennel Club has banned from showing for life a Rhodesian Ridgeback dog which bit a judge. It has also had its registration suspended, a new departure for the club, which recently introduced rules to breed out inherited aggression. This will bar the dog's offspring from registration.

CORRECTION

The report of May 24 on Labour's front bench said that Mr Neil Kinnock had not been a parliamentary private secretary in government. This should have said that Mr Kinnock had not been a Parliamentary Under Secretary. Mr Kinnock was PPS to Mr Michael Foot 1974-75.

Co-op shop workers' pay offer increased

By KEVIN EASON

MORE than 70,000 counter staff in Co-op stores are being offered an extra pay rise because they are suffering from the effects of the poll tax, inflation and high interest rates (Kevin Eason writes).

Management reopened negotiations with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers after rejection of an 8.5 per cent deal. The Co-operative Employers' Association said the first offer was made before the Budget and had not taken into account the recent concerns over the community charge, increasing prices and mortgage rates.

Workers are now being offered an average 9.4 per cent, with extra increases of £1 or £2 for shop assistants and checkout staff in December.

That is well in advance of government hopes for settlements at about 7 per cent or the level of inflation as it battles to hold down prices.

The Co-op has recognized that its wage rates must compete as shops find it difficult to recruit school-leavers. Sainsbury's gave its 60,000 staff an 11 per cent rise to halt turnover of up to 40 per cent in its 289 stores.

Mr Frank Dugdale, chief industrial relations adviser to the Co-operative Employers' Association, said the original wage offer was no longer viable. "We wanted to bring this offer up to date and to ensure that low-paid workers who were suffering most from high mortgage rates and increases in poll tax could cope within our powers to help."

Apart from cash rises, the Co-op will also offer improved maternity leave, allowing 40 weeks off instead of the statutory 29 weeks. Lower grades of shop assistants or checkout staff will get £1 or £2 a week extra in December, according to grade, as an additional payment. That will take average hourly rates from £2.82 to £2.87. Representatives of the Union of Shop, Allied and Distributive Workers are recommending acceptance in ballots, which should be completed by the end of the month.

No royal investiture for BEM recipients

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT to have the Queen or a member of the Royal Family award the British Empire Medal to recipients personally has failed. Instead, names of those who are awarded the medal will be put forward for invitations to attend, with 8,000 others, one of the three annual garden parties held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The idea of recipients of the medal being invested personally was mooted in a recent review of honours organization undertaken by No 10 Downing Street. The suggestion was rejected because the numbers involved would have meant an increase in the investiture ceremonies held each year.

Some 900 people a year receive the medal, awarded for "meritorious service to men and women who do not qualify by rank for higher awards". They have included changehands, labourers, messengers and voluntary workers for the mentally handicapped.

While those made dame commanders, knight commanders and officers of the Order of the British Empire receive their insignia at

investiture ceremonies carried out by the Queen or another member of the Royal Family, those awarded the British Empire Medal get their medals from lord lieutenants around the country, ministers in government departments and senior military officers.

The Queen holds 14 ceremonies a year to invest those honoured in the New Years Honours List and the Birthday Honours List. Usually six are held in February and March, two in July and a further six in October and November.

In the most recent New Year Honours List there were 267 British Empire Medals awarded, compared with 181 people made officers and 294 made members of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr Bruce Groucott, the Labour MP for the Wrekin who introduced a 10-minute rule Bill last year to end the Prime Minister's control of the honours system, said the proposal to invite those awarded medals to garden parties was merely tinkering with a fundamentally flawed system.

Leading article, page 13

Northern Foods

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Barclays Bank PLC as Registrar.

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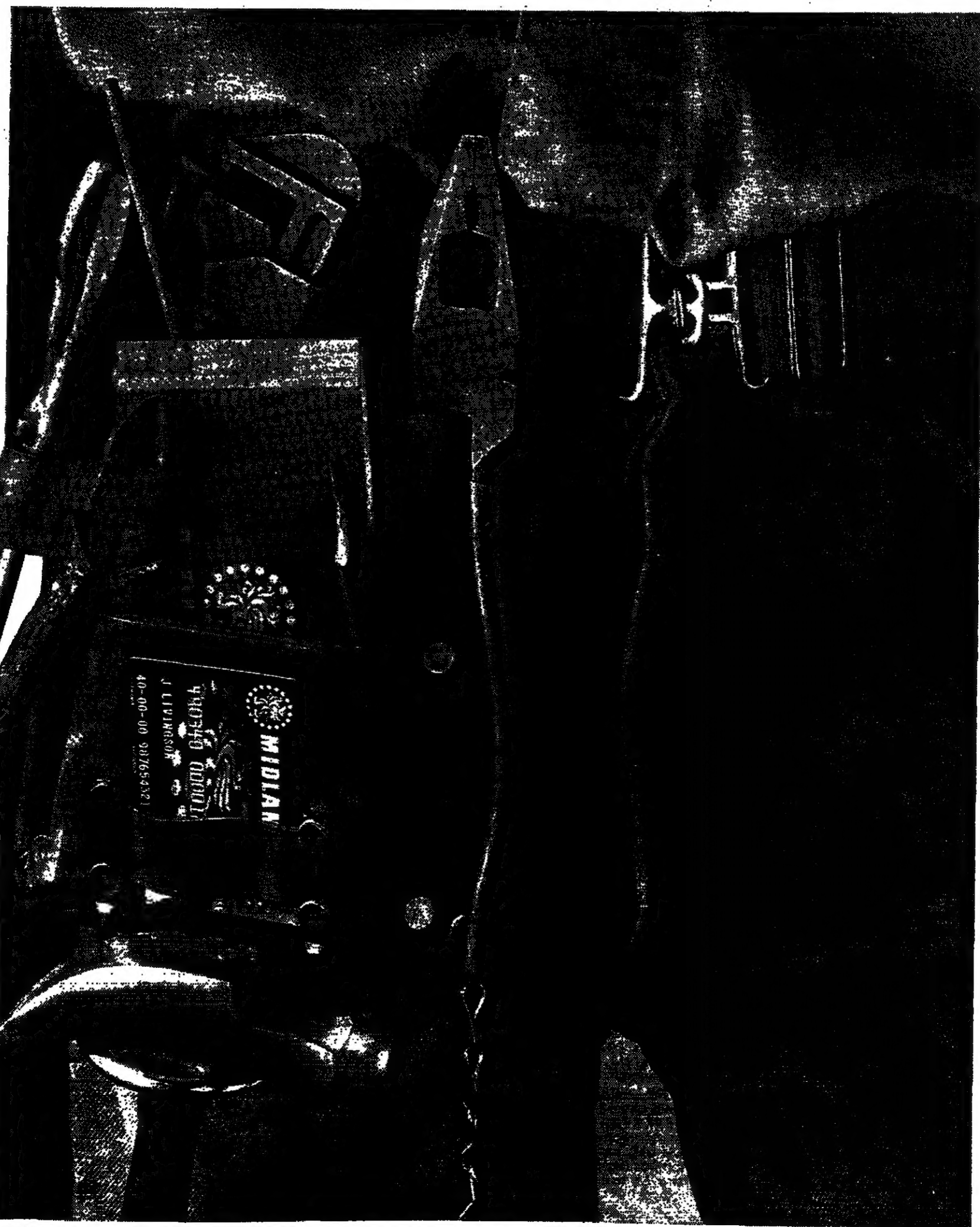
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Health department urged to cut delays in hospital building

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Department of Health was criticised yesterday over the "inordinate" amount of time taken to build new hospitals and was urged to reduce delays, cut costs and improve patient care.

A report from the all-party Commons Public Accounts Committee disclosed that big hospital schemes take, on average, 10 years to complete from initial planning to commissioning. Some take 15 years.

The committee, the main parliamentary watchdog on public spending, condemned the failure to bring some hospital facilities into use immediately on completion. The average building time in the £700 million annual National Health Service building programme "contrasts with the much shorter periods in which the private sector claim they build their hospitals".

A report from the National Audit Office last year, on which the committee's investigation was based, included in its examples the 12½ years taken to complete the third phase of the Royal South Hampshire Hospital. The report also said that it took 15 years to complete the first phase of the Bromsgrove Hospital, West Midlands, and 12½ years to finish a project at St George's Hospital in Tot-

ing, south London. At North Manchester Hospital, savings of £1.3 million a year had been postponed by delays in a scheme to provide 175 beds for seriously ill patients and four new operating theatres.

The committee's report said: "We are concerned at the inordinate time it takes to plan, design and build new hospitals and the implications this has for patient care. Quicker delivery would allow older, less efficient hospitals to be closed, so releasing revenue funds to be used for capital in uncompleted schemes; reduce the risk of under use of new buildings and meet patients' needs more quickly through the provision of improved facilities."

"Clearly the time taken to provide new hospitals has important value for money implications and impacts on the delivery of patient care."

The report called on the Department of Health to work more closely with the Institution of Civil Engineers and others in the private sector to ensure good practice outside the NHS could be passed on to health authorities. The committee called for a reduction in building times by strengthening the project manager's role and by ensuring that designs were frozen, where possible, before construction began.

The department said that new facilities were not fully used on completion, partly because there were changes in clinical demand over the long period it took to complete a scheme. There were times when a scheme was ready but the resources were not available to open the hospital to its full capacity. Districts tried to ensure new wards were not left empty; for example, by transferring facilities from older accommodation.

The committee said: "We consider it unacceptable that some hospitals cannot be brought fully into use immediately on completion and we are surprised the department does not know the extent of this underuse. We note that the main reasons for under-use are changes in medical need and the failure to match revenue funds with capital investment but observe that lengthy built times aggravate these problems."

The department said it had taken steps to reduce the time taken in the planning stages.

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts 18th report: Hospital Building in England. (Stationary Office, £6.45)



Ray Baker, aged 33, of south London, crossing Westminster Bridge yesterday, with Lake Moore, aged two, and his brother, Simon, aged five, who both suffer from Treacher Collins syndrome. Mr Baker is to walk the length of Britain to raise money for victims of the disease, who suffer from malformed facial bones

GP budget scheme is doomed, doctors say

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Government's scheme for general practitioners to hold National Health Service budgets for their patients' hospital care was "quite unlikely to get off the ground", Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the British Medical Association's general medical services committee, predicted yesterday.

Dr Wilson's committee is writing again to all medical practices that have registered interest in the scheme urging them not to participate. He said that the number of practices interested was diminishing steadily. He claimed that computer firms were not prepared to invest money in developing software for so small a potential market. The proposed scheme would give practices with 9,000 patients or more the option of administering budgets of about £1 million a year, allowing them to shop around for hospital care, appointments and tests. Any underspending of the budget could then be spent on staff or premises.

At the start, 850 practices out of about 1,400 eligible registered interest, but only 400 are still pursuing the matter. Dr Wilson predicted a "significant" number would withdraw before early 1991, when they must commit themselves.

Checks urged for undetected diabetes

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS were urged yesterday to make greater efforts to identify up to half a million "missing" diabetes sufferers whose condition has not been diagnosed. The disease can cause blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks and gangrene leading to limb amputations, but in many people it develops slowly over 10 to 15 years, experts said at a medical seminar in London.

About half a million people in Britain are known to have diabetes. Some 60,000 new cases are detected each year. For every case diagnosed, however, there is probably one that goes undetected, Professor George Alberti said.

Women face increasing alcohol risk

WOMEN are at increasing risk of alcohol problems because of improvements in their equality with men, a health conference in London was told yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

Dr Diana Jones, senior medical officer at the Department of Health, said: "The social stigma of being labelled alcoholic is far greater for women than it is for men but they do appear to be drinking more like men as they achieve greater equality."

Rates of cirrhosis of the liver among women are rising 50 per cent faster than among men and the department is providing £3.8 million to help women problem drinkers. The conference was funded by the department and organized by leading alcohol advice charities.

The more serious form, melitus, or insulin-dependent diabetes, develops rapidly, is more common in younger people, and can lead to premature death. This type is easier to diagnose than melitus (NIDDM), non-insulin dependent diabetes, which is more likely to occur in the middle-aged and elderly. The effects of the two forms of the disease are similar.

Diabetes specialists from 14 European countries have published a new guide, aimed at general practitioners and practice nurses, which contains advice on the diagnosis and management of NIDDM. The guide, launched at the seminar yesterday, is being provided free by Boehringer Mannheim UK, a biomedical company that funded its production. The guide is also being published in other European languages and in Japanese.

Professor Alberti, head of the department of medicine at Newcastle University, said: "It will help us track down some of the missing half million people with diabetes. We want doctors to give people glucose tests if they are overweight, have high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels or a family history of diabetes. These factors are particularly important in the over-50 age group."

Professor Harry Keen, head of the metabolic medicine unit at Guy's Hospital, south London, said: "If urine tests were used more widely and more often by GPs and hospital doctors, most of the people with undiagnosed diabetes would be picked up."

Free guide from Diabetes Care Management, Boehringer Mannheim House, Bell Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1LG

Banned driver jailed

Samuel Alfred Hoyland-Thornton, a builder aged 53, was jailed for six months at York yesterday for driving while disqualified. He had been banned from driving or obtaining a licence for life in 1977 because of his record for driving offences. The magistrates were told that since then he had been convicted on a further 15 occasions for similar offences.

Hoyland-Thornton, of Upper Poppleton, York, said he had taken over the driving from his girl friend when the clutch became faulty and she was unable to handle the car.

Front protest

Hundreds of civil servants are to stage a walk-out today in protest at the National Front being allowed to set itself up as a limited company. Staff at Companies House, Cardiff, which handles records of businesses in England and Wales, have been opposing the party's application.

Post complaints

A poll published yesterday by the Mail Users' Association, which represents 500 large businesses, showed that a slight improvement in deliveries had taken place but the service was "still not good enough" and delivery targets were not being reached.

Murder charge

Albert Houghton, aged 62, will appear before magistrates in Sunderland today charged with the murder of Mrs Dawn Mills, a housewife, aged 38, who was found dead at Mr Houghton's bungalow in Gray Road, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, where she had been staying.

Panning event

The World Gold Panning Championship will be held in Britain in July 1992, the first time the event has come to this country. It is likely to be staged at Moffat in Dumfriesshire.

Blood test

The television weatherman Mr Michael Fish will have to wait for a fortnight, while a blood sample is analysed, before he knows whether police are to prosecute him for alleged drink-driving.

Aircraft ditched

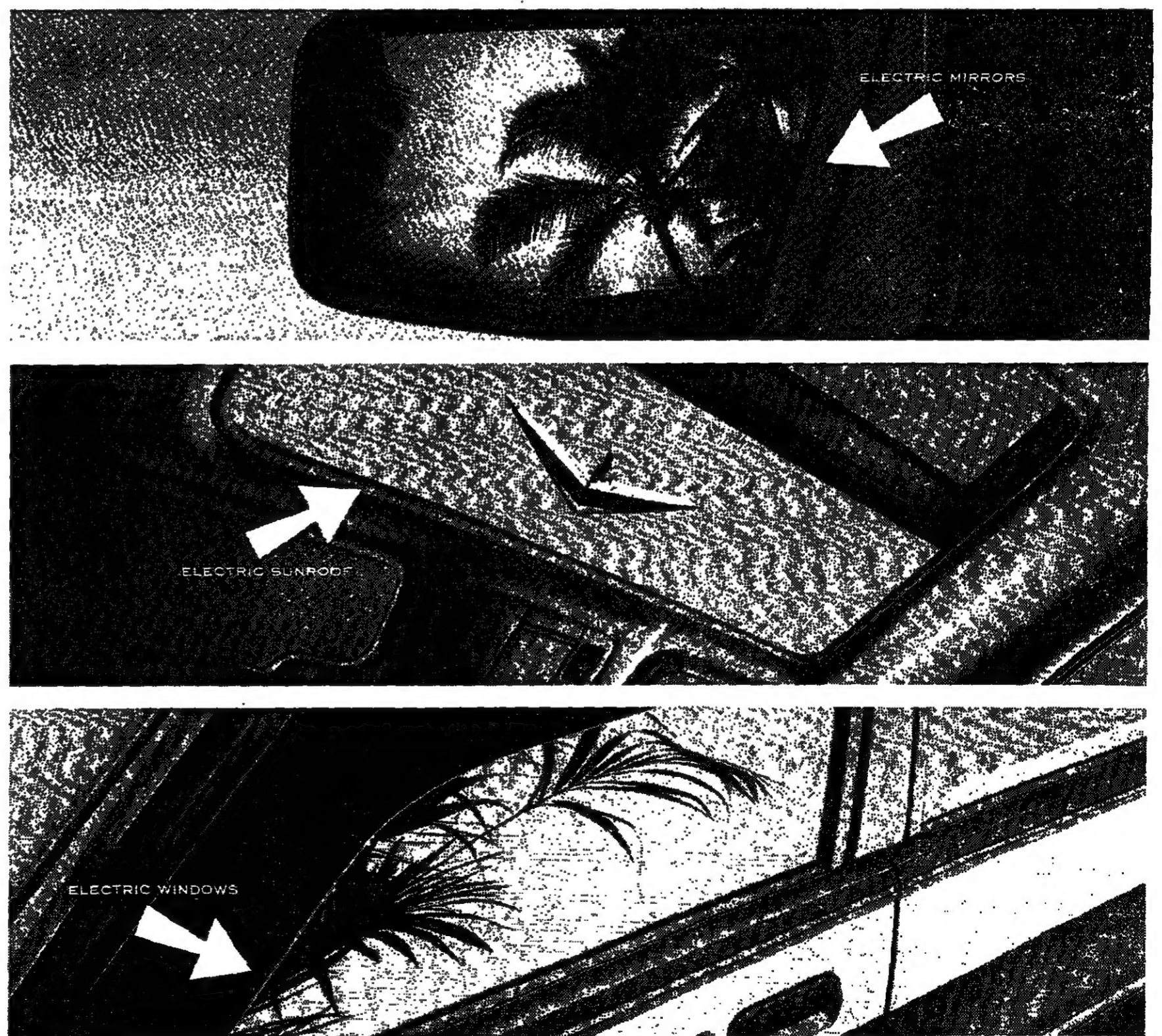
Three men were rescued by a Royal Navy helicopter yesterday after they ditched their fisheries protection aircraft off the island of Colonsay, Inner Hebrides.

Footballer ban

Ian Bishop, the West Ham United footballer, was banned from driving for two years and fined £500 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday after he pleaded guilty to drink driving.

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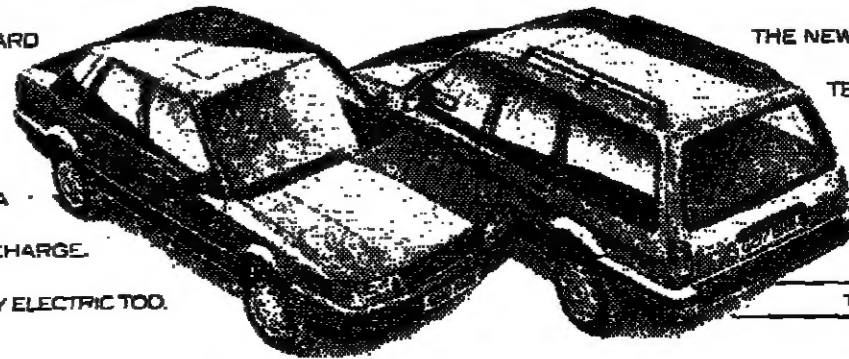


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SURNAME			
TITLE		FORENAME(S)	
SURNAME			
ADDRESS			
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POSTCODE		TEL. NO.	
Time at current address		Years	Months
If less than three years at current address, please give previous address:			
How long did you live there?		Years	Months
Are you: Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant <input type="checkbox"/> With parents <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			
1st applicant's date of birth		2nd applicant's date of birth	
/ / 19		/ / 19	
Marital status: Married <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced/separated <input type="checkbox"/> No. of dep. children <input type="checkbox"/>			

FINANCIAL DETAILS

PLEASE PROVIDE TWO RECENT SALARY SLIPS FOR EACH APPLICANT AS EVIDENCE OF INCOME.

Net earned income	Monthly income	Monthly expenditure
£	£	£
Second applicant's net earned income	£	£
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Total income	£	£
	£	£

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Time in current employment: yrs months

Occupation of 2nd applicant:

Time in current employment: yrs months

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Purpose of loan:

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Loan to be secured on your property: ☐ estimated mortgage outstanding £

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5000-10-10-10

Head fights assessment tests for young pupils

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

A TEARFUL seven-year-old has persuaded an experienced head teacher to say that she will break the law and not put the children in her school through the legally required tests demanded by the Government's education reforms.

Mrs Pat Moss was given a standing ovation by fellow heads at the annual conference of the National Association of

Tide moves in favour of private education

DISILLUSIONED parents are taking their children out of state schools in droves and moving them into private education, the leader of Britain's largest head teachers' association said yesterday (David Tytler writes).

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Parents are prepared to pay large sums of money and to make sacrifices because they believe they are purchasing education which is funded so that it meets the educational needs of the pupils."

Mr Hart told the association's annual conference in Torquay, Devon, that schools should do more to persuade parents of the value of state education, to stop them leaving in such large numbers. The number of pupils educated privately had risen from 5.75 per cent to 7.3 per cent over the past 10 years.

"The natural instinct for parents to seek what they perceive to be the best for their children can never be quenched. They see the way state education has been, by and large, neglected; they observe the loss of morale amongst many teachers; they note the poor quality of much of the accommodation; they remember three years of industrial action; they see further strikes threatened; and they vote with their feet, taking with them pupils desperately needed by the state sector, with the result that each year it suffers from more and more under use."

Government reforms that led schools to compete for pupils could only make matters worse. He also said that many local authorities were introducing new layers of bureaucracy, rather than putting available money into schools, and were wasting millions of pounds by appointing more and more advisory teachers working from town halls.

He added that, unless authorities "loosened up", there was a risk that more and more schools would contemplate opting out to achieve increases in funding.

Head Teachers, at Torquay, when she said that the trial tests used in her school were unacceptable. "That the staff and children should have been subjected to something like this saddened and distressed me more than I can say," she said.

"If next year's tests in any way resemble the pilot ones my conscience and my principles will not allow me to let them take place and I will be fully prepared to take any consequences for such action," Mrs Moss who has a grandson who will take the first published tests in 1992 is the head of the 193-pupil Redscope infants school, Rotham. The school was chosen as one of the 640 asked to complete pilot testing before assessment is introduced nationally next year. The results are not to be published until the following year's tests.

Mrs Moss said: "Over the five weeks' testing the standard of children's work and behaviour has deteriorated. While the teacher spends hours repeating the same task again and again with each group or individual in turn the rest of the class is neglected. Some areas of the curriculum which we regard as important have been totally neglected."

Pilot testing of 60 seven-year-olds at the school ended last Friday. Mrs Moss said that papers for the tests arrived from the National Foundation for Educational Research only eight working days before they were due to be set.

There were 176 assessments for each child and the time needed to complete each one ranged from 10 minutes to more than one hour. The school did not complete them. "I'm nearing the end of my career which I have thoroughly enjoyed and I'm not willing to compromise. I am willing to break the law unless the tests are drastically changed," she said.

"Some of the tests were withdrawn after three children became upset, some of them in tears. They were being asked to do things they were not prepared for and thought they would fail."

Mrs Moss, a teacher for 35 years and head for the last 12, said that some bright children had not done as well as expected while others, who were not even in school, had scored higher. "We need training for teachers to assess their own children in their own classes. They are quite capable of it. It happens for 16-year-olds in the GCSE, why shouldn't it happen in primary schools?"

The Department of Education and Science said: "The whole purpose of the pilot tests is to discover whether or not they work."

Leading article, page 13

Armenian prodigy wins scholarship to public school

By LIN JENKINS

AN ARMENIAN boy aged 12, described as a genius, has won a scholarship to Winchester College, one of Britain's most academic public schools. It is believed to be the first awarded to a child in the Soviet Union.

Yusif Kutiev, known in his home town of Baku, Azerbaijan, as an academic prodigy, impressed science masters at Winchester with his grasp of physics.

During interviews which form part of the school's selection process, Yusif proved to be a theoretical physicist with such a command of his subject that he will have to study under professors from Southampton University rather than at school.

Mr Henry Thompson, a house master and Russian teacher from Winchester College, met Yusif and his mother after a friend in the British Embassy in Moscow put them in touch. "He is the brightest boy I have ever met of his age. Certainly quite a phenomenon. His written papers were modest because of the language difficulty, but his interviews, conducted in Russian, were very impressive. He discussed black holes and the theory of relativity in some depth."

Yusif's mother, who is a widow, sought help from the British Embassy in Moscow after she became concerned that school Number 54 in the port of Baku could not meet his needs. Her husband, who died when Yusif was aged two, was a physicist, and the telescope and books he left have

proved invaluable. Yusif, whose command of physics is equal to that of a graduate, is also gifted in mathematics and writes poetry. He speaks and writes English.

Provided there are no diplomatic hiccups, he should start at the school, where fees are more than £9,000 a year, in September. Mr Thompson said: "The biggest problem for them is his mother finding somewhere to live and something to do, and finding the money to pay for things other than fees. The boarding school system is a very English idea and the thought of being separated from him by thousands of miles does not appeal, so she wants to be near by."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are not aware of any other boy in the Soviet Union ever getting a scholarship to a British public school."



Yusif Kutiev: Impressive command of physics



Yeoman Ravenmaster John Wilmington with Thor, a Tower of London raven chick flown yesterday by the RAF to a new home in Hayle, Cornwall. With him is Sergeant Roger Pell, who drove the first leg of the journey, to RAF Northolt.

Parents urged to take time off for child care

By RUTH GLEDHILL

MORE men should consider taking time off or working part-time while they and their partners bring up young children, a child care conference in London was told yesterday.

Old-fashioned sexism which demands that women stay at home while men go out to work has interfered with the real child care debate into the issue of whether many families are not too busy, the conference heard.

Mr Malcolm Wicks, director of the Family Policy Studies Centre, a research charity, said: "Many women in British society are trying to do everything at once." Not only do they have children, go to work, pay a mortgage and pension contributions, but they and their partners work doubly hard to try to get their careers off the ground during their crucial thirties.

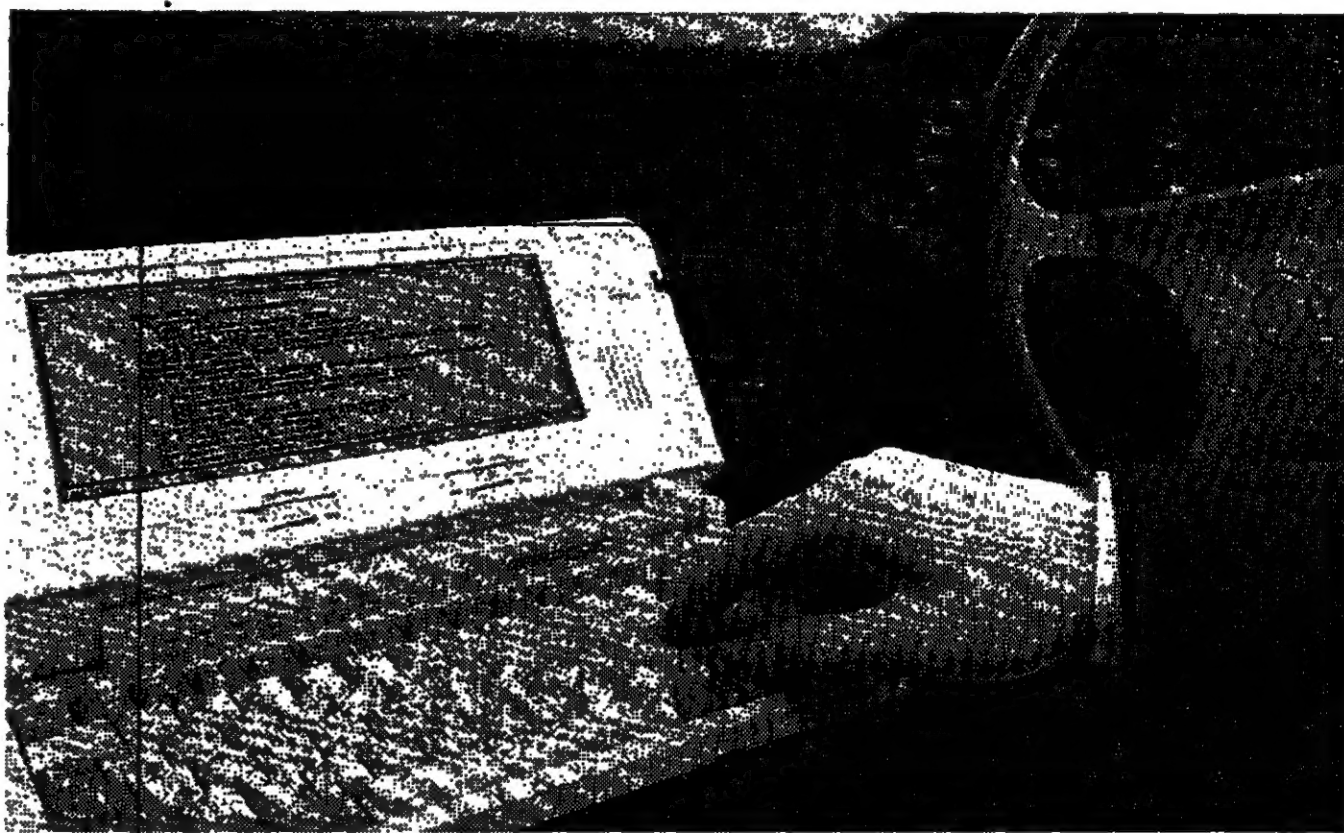
He said both men and women should consider taking a year or two off when they have children, or consider trying to work flexible hours or part-time.

The 1990s would be the decade of the working woman but although the trends in society pointed towards a need for more child care, there was still a wider debate taking place about the rights and wrongs of working mothers.

action to develop better childcare had been slow because "the public is confused about the values at the heart of the family debate".

Mr Wicks said the confusion stemmed from a turnaround in the past decade: in the early 1980s, a period of high unemployment, the emphasis was on the traditional role of women in family life. "There is now a danger that child care will be hijacked by the needs of the personnel manager and the concerns of the labour market, rather than the needs of the modern working family and in particular, the needs of the child." Mr Wicks was speaking at the United Kingdom Federation of Business and Professional Women seminar, "The New Decade of Childcare."

He said the childcare debate should be considered against a background of a rising divorce rate and an increase in numbers of children born to unmarried couples. Many women were opting for the security of a career rather than the risks of a marriage. He said there should be more studies into how the security of children born outside marriage compared to that of children born to married parents.



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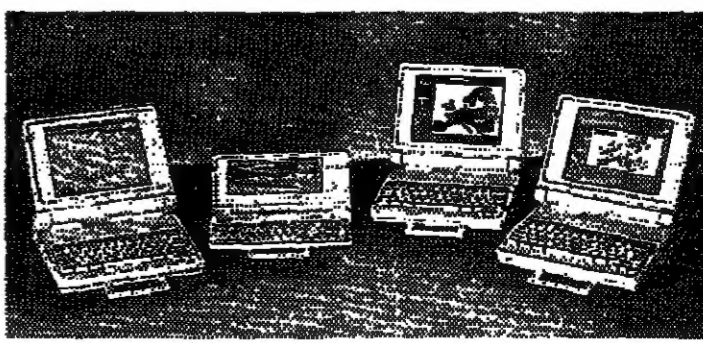
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The Washington summit

Optimistic signs of agreement on Start and German unity

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON

THE 1990 Washington summit opened with low-key pronouncements by the two leaders about their ambitions. Washington, the two Presidents agreed, would be a summit in which the chance to exchange views "in a spirit of candour" in an open and honest search for common ground — to quote President Bush's welcoming statement — would be more important than signed documents.

Even as the two leaders were emphasizing the modesty of their expectations, however, the outlines emerged of possible solutions to two of the most intractable items on the agenda: the Start agreement on reducing strategic arms and German unification.

Before leaving Canada for Washington on Wednesday, President Gorbachev disclosed that he was bringing to Washington a number of "different scenarios" on the vexed question of a united Germany's security alignment. At the same time, President Bush's arms negotiators were reported to have said that most outstanding issues on Start had been resolved in time for

an agreement in principle to be initiated in Washington.

The US proposals for Germany are said to comprise a nine-point set of guarantees designed to reassure the Soviet Union that its security interests will be respected. They include a proposed understanding limiting the size of a united Germany's armed forces to be enshrined as an appendix to the current Vienna talks on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

In order to meet German sensibilities about its future being dictated by an East-West summit, the White House has made it clear that no troop reduction deal will be done which applies solely to Germany. But by bringing a deal, which includes Germany, into the first round of CFE talks, rather than leaving it for the so-called CFE II, the United States hopes that Soviet fears may be allayed.

Provisional agreement was reached earlier this year on reducing Nato and Warsaw Pact troop strengths to 195,000 on either side. But this agreement did not bring the expected progress and

talks are stalled, apparently because of Soviet concern about the speed of German reunification.

A limit to German troop strength, coupled with a pledge by Nato not to station troops in East Germany, and provision for a period of transition before the full withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Germany, might converge with a new element in Soviet thinking. Mr Gorbachev spoke in Ottawa of possibly acceptable stage-by-stage limits to be incorporated into the reunification process. He did not specify what limits he had in mind.

Other points of the projected US nine-point plan include an acceleration of talks on short-range nuclear missiles, guarantees on maintaining the present German borders, pledges that a united Germany will store no nuclear and no chemical weapons, a more formalized structure to the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) — which Moscow tends to see as the potential guardian of an integrated European security system — and Western economic assistance for a united Germany.

Several of these proposals have been aired before. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, has spoken of the need for border guarantees. A proposal has been made already that the West should pay for the upkeep of Warsaw Pact troops in East Germany until their withdrawal and possibly even give assistance for their resettlement on demobilization in the Soviet Union.

Whether the package of proposals goes far enough for Mr Gorbachev depends partly on how concerned the Soviet leadership is to avoid even the appearance of a united Germany belonging to Nato. If appearance is more important than substance, because of the psychological impact on sections of the Soviet military and the Soviet public — then they will not be acceptable.

Speaking to army officers and veterans on May 8, however, Mr Gorbachev set out requirements for a united Germany which came close to those contained in the US nine-point plan. Unlike several of his senior advisers, for whom the very idea of a united Germany in Nato is unacceptable — Mr Gorbachev has tended to emphasize substance, and spoken more often of the need "not to upset the existing balance of forces in Europe", than of the need to keep a united Germany out of Nato.

As well as repeating the balance of forces requirement on May 8, Mr Gorbachev also insisted on the need for guarantees on a united Germany's borders and the absolute requirement that "war should never be allowed to rise again from German soil". The proposal that a united Germany should contain no nuclear or chemical weapons might meet that demand.

Mr Gorbachev might also be tempted by the concept of a more formal CSCE structure if it were dressed up in such a way as to resemble his — still poorly defined — notion of a pan-European security system. This concept has been repeatedly rejected by Western spokesmen, but some of the problems may be semantic and the very fluidity of Moscow's definition of such a system leaves room for negotiation.

On Start, a White House official was quoted as saying that agreement in principle on reducing strategic arms could be accompanied by a second statement in which Moscow and Washington agreed to work towards a Start II requiring more extensive cuts.



President Gorbachev with his wife, Raisa, being welcomed on their arrival in the United States at Andrews Air Force Base by Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, before yesterday's discussions

People power propels Yeltsin to the status of Russia's boss

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

JUST before Mr Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Federation this week General Dmitri Volkogonov, a military historian who sits as a deputy, rose to remind the parliament that it was "feeling the hot breath of the people".

The remark, combined with the behind-the-scenes deal on power-sharing between Mr Yeltsin's Democratic Russia group and the Communists, swung the vote Mr Yeltsin's way. But General Volkogonov was not indulging in rhetoric. The significance of this week's upheaval in Russian politics is that the popular movement for change which swept through Eastern Europe last year has reached Moscow.

Opinions still differ about how much power Mr Yeltsin will have. He will have to co-exist somehow with President Gorbachev whose office — together with the conference hall of the Supreme Soviet parliament — is only a few hundred yards from the Great Hall of the Kremlin where Mr

Yeltsin's Russian parliament sits. Yesterday, the Russian parliament set the seal on Mr Yeltsin's new coalition by voting to give him not only a "first deputy" but also three other deputies drawn from various factions.

The Communists in the parliament are being referred to in pro-Yeltsin newspapers as the minority. In reality Democratic Russia has about 35 per cent of the 1,000 seats. Yesterday, Mr Ivan Galushko, a Communist deputy, accused Mr Yeltsin of exceeding his powers by having launched a revolutionary programme on Wednesday to give Russia control of its land and resources and challenge the central Government. He said Mr Yeltsin should refrain from "hasty pronouncements" on matters which only the parliament could decide.

The intervention drew only scattered applause and Democratic Russia deputies were soon on their feet pointing out that Mr Yeltsin had, in effect,

been elected by "the people". In many areas of European Russia, as in Moscow itself, to criticize Mr Yeltsin is to risk a public lynching.

The Yeltsin-Gorbachev rivalry worries deputies from all factions, half excited and half terrified that Mr Yeltsin will precipitate a collapse of the Soviet edifice. Mr Galushko won applause for urging the two leaders to avoid a confrontation between the Russian Federation and the Union and to steer a "calm, cautious path instead".

Mr Yeltsin replied that he would serve in the interests of all the people and was not a hostage to the radicals of Democratic Russia. Taking a more conciliatory tone, he offered to meet Mr Gorbachev on his return from America to "remove the obstacles which hamper Russia's sovereignty and goals".

The fact remains that Mr Yeltsin dominates the parliament and, to some extent, Russia after only a few days in power. His supporters suggest that Mr Gorbachev opposes a referendum on price rises because he knows that, unlike Mr Yeltsin, he commands little popular support. In other words, through pressure from "the street" Mr Yeltsin has acquired the status of Russia's *voyvod*, or boss.

The Yeltsin triumph is above all a victory for the young, fascinated by religion, rock music and Western values, and fed up with the arrogance and lies of the old regime. It is the young officials of Democratic Russia who now walk the corridors of power in the Kremlin, sometimes looking as if they cannot quite believe they have conquered the citadel.

Seen from below, the podium and the statue of Lenin in a niche behind it dominate and intimidate the parliament hall. But the new deputies

elected in a free vote this spring are no longer intimidated. The nation is seized by an almost feverish desire to talk and parliamentary debates are endlessly replayed on television, echoing from livingrooms and hotel lobbies in an almost manic release of pent up verbosity.

Some fear that the KGB or the army will put the clock back. Others have a different anxiety; that one orthodoxy will be replaced by another and Democratic Russia will become the new apparatus, with parliament engaging in noisy exchanges but in the final analysis following the lead of the new *voyvod*.

There is concern about Mr Yeltsin's belief that an independent Russia can somehow co-exist with the Union. Significantly, his followers prefer the word *Confederation*. There is anxiety too about Mr Yeltsin's vagueness when asked repeatedly for details of his "alternative method" of achieving a market economy without excessive pain.

Mr Yeltsin noted yesterday that his popular triumph may have helped Mr Gorbachev by defusing public anger and giving the people a new champion. He is also conscious that he has only bought time and most Russians will be watching closely to see if he repays their trust by achieving his programme for the 100 days of action.

What they want, judging by reaction on the streets yesterday, is an accommodation with Mr Gorbachev and an economy which releases honest initiative and enterprise and puts food and goods on the empty shelves of Moscow shops, at the same time curbing rampant corruption and the increasingly powerful world of crime.

Barbara Amiel, page 17

Generals improve front-line links

FROM IAN MURRAY IN HOLZMINDEN, LOWER SAXONY

WHILE the superpower summit argued about the future military status of a united Germany yesterday, a British and a West German general met on a pontoon by the river Weser here to sign the first memorandum of understanding, binding two divisions from different nations more closely together within Nato than has ever been done at this level before.

Whatever the political points in Washington, for these two commanders in Nato's frontline this was an agreement which should blaze a trail for the multinational corps likely to make up the smaller but better Nato army needed in future.

There was no question at this military level about whether a united Germany should be a full member of Nato. Major-General Hartmut Behrendt, Commander of the 1st (German) Panzer Division, was convinced that this was an essential factor in creating stability and peace. He said firmly: "Nato is not falling apart. The threat has changed but there is now instability and the danger has not faded away." The memorandum would make the two divisions stronger to face that danger.

Major-General Roger Wheeler, commanding the 1st (British) Armoured Division, was also delighted with how well the two divisions now worked together and looked forward to even closer collaboration in training and liaison as the memorandum took effect.

With the political disarmament lobby clearly in their sights, the drafters of the memorandum insisted that "despite momentous political changes there remains a clear need for the effective armed forces to maintain stability in Europe. The spirit of increased co-operation over security matters within Nato points to the need for ever closer understanding based on the already solid ties between our two divisions."

The British and West German divisions are based in much the same area of Lower Saxony and have been co-operating more and more with each other for the past 17 years. That ever closer contact led eventually to yesterday's ceremony. Other units have

been following their example and could well reach similar agreements.

As a West German officer, General Behrendt has the freedom to make political comments. President Gorbachev, he said, was raising a serious question about whether a united Germany could be in Nato. "We must give him a serious answer," he said. "I don't see any reason why he should fear a united Germany with an adequate force. But that is a political argument. The military are the outcome and not the reason for politics. If we want peace, politicians have to create it. I am doing my job in putting my political leaders in a position where they can discuss these problems from the same level of authority."

For the present he insisted on the need for a continuing strong Nato role. "The warning time of an attack has dramatically changed in the last six months," he said. "A year ago we could see a proper working Soviet army in East Germany and a well-trained National People's Army there as well. Now there is no real military unit working, but there is instability and these things cause a lack of safety."

General Wheeler, a British officer restricted from making political comment, nevertheless emphasized how useful it was militarily to have soldiers from the two countries working together so closely. This showed that what is known as "inter-operability" with divisions from different countries combining into one corps, was very feasible.



General Behrendt: "The danger has not faded"

Hollywood greats add glitz to guest list

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

MRS Raisa Gorbachev said that she wanted to meet some stars from Hollywood. Yesterday lunchtime, Robert Redford, Gregory Peck, Jack Lemmon, Burt Lancaster and Jane Fonda were invited to the Soviet Embassy to fulfil her wish.

In between a 21-gun salute to the White House lawn and an afternoon examining Soviet historical documents, Mr and Mrs Gorbachev played host to what *The Washington Post* called "the biggest gathering of motion picture greats" since former President Reagan had his best friends round to the White House.

In case anyone back in Moscow thought that this was too frivolous an affair, the list of 38 American guests also included Dr Henry Kissinger, whose summit memoirs will now extend from the seventies to the nineties, and the Sovietologist and Librarian of Congress, Mr James Billington. Washington's most

"socialist" politician, the Rev Jesse Jackson, was also included, alongside the economist Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, whose critiques of capitalism's private affluence and public squalor once gave a glimmer of hope to those who espoused rival political systems.

The playwright Arthur Miller, another onetime intellectual critic of American excesses, was also one of the Russian choices — although he may not have escaped questions about his marriage to one of Moscow's most favoured "greats", Marilyn Monroe.

The day's ceremonies began on the south lawn of the White House, where the Gorbachevs' big Zil limousine only barely negotiated the gates on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Soviet President, returning to his normal single-breasted suit after the double-breasted experiment in Ottawa, was welcomed by President Bush slightly after 10 am. He looked relaxed and confident, shuffling from side to side only during a review of troops with

pipes and bands whose traditions date back to the American revolution. The two leaders then moved into the Oval Office where, accompanied by only interpreters and a single note-taker on each side, they reviewed the coming talks before joining their senior aides to begin the substantive agenda.

The setting for the Soviet lunch was the dining room of their ornate temporary embassy three blocks north of the White House. Originally designed for the millionaire Pullman railway carriage family, the French "Beaux Arts" building has both an opulence and an unhappy history worthy of Hollywood's greatest plots.

The Russians are, however, intensely proud of it, and have restored the gliding on the stairway where the Gorbachevs greeted their guests yesterday. Even when their new-hire is ready for occupation, at the end of what is still an active dispute about bugging attempts in the new US Embassy in Moscow, it has been made clear that they will keep their pre-revolutionary palace on 16th Street.

Yesterday evening the Gorbachevs were due to attend the first full state dinner ever given for a Soviet leader. Mr Gorbachev's newly acquired position as head of the Soviet state, however uneasy may be the head which holds that title, has been taken with full seriousness by the American protocol chiefs.

The cannons on the White House lawn fired two more puffs of white smoke than a mere General Secretary would have warranted. The formal dinner last night was for 130 guests, all but the small Russian contingent personally selected by President and Mrs Bush.

It had to be hoped that Mrs Gorbachev had already slaked her thirst for film glamour. The evening list was "Very Bush, which means Very Un-Reagan", as one Washington social observer put it.

Cabinet members, congressional leaders, and Republican fundraisers rubbed shoulders with Bush family friends. The opera singer Frederica von Stade provided entertainment.



The Princess Royal watching traditional carpet weaving in a factory in Ashkhabad, the capital of the Soviet republic of Turkmenia yesterday

Moscow acts to legalize political parties

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

WITH the Soviet Union laying the groundwork for a multi-party democracy, Soviet officials revealed yesterday that in the Russian Federation alone there were more than 40 political groups which had declared themselves to be parties and were likely to seek registration under the new rules.

Mr Yuri Kalmykov, head of the legal committee of the Supreme Soviet, said that a number of "informal associations" which had sprung up during the Gorbachev era of liberalization must now be given a legal basis. But the Central Committee's theoretical journal, *Kommunist*, warned that pluralism must not be allowed to "destabilize" the Soviet system.

On Wednesday, the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet — the Council of Union and the Council of Nationalities — met separately to give the first reading to a new Bill setting up the legal basis for a multi-party system in the Soviet Union. The Bill follows an earlier vote by the Supreme Soviet, abolishing Article Six in the Communist Party constitution which formerly enshrined the party's monopoly of power.

Under the Bill, political parties are to be registered at the Ministry of Justice. Tass said that any party which was prevented by the authorities from registering could apply to the courts to oblige the Ministry of Justice to register it. But parties which promote "national or racial strife" will be banned, as will "parties receiving financial aid from foreign organizations or foreign citizens".

Russian liberals said the test would come if some of the new political parties, like Democratic Russia, apply for registration. Some were sceptical whether Soviet courts, which do not have a tradition of asserting their independence, would stand up to the Communist Party apparatus. But Mr Leonid Ioni, a leading sociologist, said in the magazine *New Times* that such arguments were irrelevant because the Communist leadership had been left behind by events and "in effect, a multi-party system already exists".

The Supreme Soviet chambers also gave a first reading to a new law permitting full freedom of conscience, and the free functioning of religious organizations. But it has postponed a final vote on President Gorbachev's controversial plan for a "regulated" market economy until next week.

The plan has set off a national debate, with conservatives urging the retention of central planning, and radicals saying the plan is much too timid. It has also been criticized for sparking off panic-buying of food after Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, announced forthcoming price rises. The price of bread will triple on July 1. Mr Ryzhkov insisted that there was "no alternative" to the market economy as outlined by the Government. But Mr Pavel Buzich, a radical economist and chairman of the Soviet Leaseholders and Enterprises Union, said the plan was still dominated by old-style Communist ideology.

Rebel Baltic republics court CSCE

By ANDREW McEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE three Baltic republics are to challenge the West's refusal to recognize them as independent countries by applying for membership of a key international organization, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). They will attempt to send representatives to a human rights meeting of the 35 CSCE countries which starts in Copenhagen next week.

The Baltic Council, which represents Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, has sent a telex to the Danish Foreign Ministry seeking clearance to attend the meeting and asking how to join the CSCE. Diplomatic sources said the Baltic Council had also called on member governments to make a declaration saying that their delegation may address the meeting.

The Baltic Council appears to have chosen the CSCE for its initiative because it will be the most important forum in deciding the new political shape of Europe after the changes in the former Soviet satellites. A summit of the 35 nations is likely in November.

The Baltic Council's request seems certain to be refused, but will embarrass both the West and the Soviet Union.

Soviet doctors threaten strike

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN Leningrad

DOCTORS in the Soviet Union are threatening to take strike action over low pay and poor working conditions. If the strike goes ahead, it will be the first time that doctors have taken industrial action in the Soviet Union, health officials said.

At a meeting on Monday, the 474 representatives of the 80,000 doctors and 120,000 nurses in Leningrad drew up a list of demands, including a minimum wage for doctors of 200 roubles (£200) a month. The meeting held at the Communist Party offices in Leningrad, also agreed to form a strike committee and to implement the first stages of the strike procedures, laid down in employment laws last October. A letter setting out these demands was sent to Dr Igor Denisov, the Soviet Health Minister, and the Leningrad city council.

Meetings are also being held between Mr Mikhail Petrov, head of the Leningrad health department, and the strike committee in an attempt to defuse a situation which could cripple the city's 40 hospitals. Mrs Tatyana Ivanova, the health department's legal officer, said the department supported the workers' demands and agreed that pay was too low. "We know of

their difficulties. We understand their demands, and we support them," Mrs Ivanova said.

The growing unrest in Leningrad reflects increasing concern over the reforms which President Gorbachev is introducing and which Mr Boris Yeltsin, newly elected president of the Russian Federation, is so keen to hurry through. Facing threats of much higher food prices and impending unemployment, the health workers want to secure a better deal for themselves.

The present difficulties have been aggravated by significant changes in the structure of the health services in Leningrad over the past two years. The health department has been trying out reforms — remarkably similar to those in Britain — which are to be implemented in many parts of the Soviet Union this year.

The reforms involve setting up an internal market among hospitals and polyclinics (large family-doctor practices) which compete for business.

Apart from a minimum wage for doctors, the letter calls for significantly higher wages for nurses. Leningrad is now suffering from a serious nursing shortage mainly because of the low rewards.

Moscow acts to legalize political parties

Bonn calls for return of seized property

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

IN ITS first clear statement on the conflicts over property rights in East Germany, the Bonn Government has indicated that property appropriated by the state after the Second World War should be restored to its former owners.

Herr Hans Klein, the Bonn government spokesman, said in a letter to the East Berlin Government that Bonn would stand by the terms of West German basic law, which provides for the return of property to those from whom it was expropriated in 1949 or their descendants.

Herr Klein rejected calls from the Government of Herr Lothar de Maizière to provide compensation for the current occupants. He said that this would only be considered "in exceptional cases".

The subject is still the

source of intense disagreement between the two governments in the run-up to the implementation of the Treaty of Economic and Currency Union on July 1. Herr de Maizière has said repeatedly that East Germans living in property claimed by West Germans will not be evicted.

In the most heated sitting yet of the East German Volkskammer (Parliament) the conservative-led coalition succeeded in gaining support for a government commission to investigate the illegal acquisition of property by the communists in 40 years of power. The extensive property acquired by the former Socialist Unity Party, together with its supporting minor parties, will be given over to the new government to administer.

Supplies sent to Mir crew

Moscow — The Soviet Union yesterday launched a specialized module to dock with the orbiting Mir space station on June 6, Tass said.

The module, according to the US specialized review *Aviation Week*, was to carry a special ladder to allow the cosmonauts to make outside repairs on the Soyuz space ferry, damaged when its thermal insulation shield became dislodged.

The module will also carry supplies for the two cosmonauts, Alexander Balandin and Anatoli Soloviyev, who have been in orbit for four months. (AP)

Begin better

Jerusalem — The former Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin, aged 76, left hospital after two weeks' treatment for pneumonia. (Reuters)

Officer dies

San Sebastian — A retired Spanish navy lieutenant shot through the head by Basque separatists died after three months in a coma, navy officials said. (Reuters)

Chemical scare

Freeport — Several hundred residents of this seaside Texas city fled their homes when toxic gas escaped from a ship at a petrochemical complex after chemicals were wrongly mixed. (Reuters)

ANC man freed

Grahamstown — Mr Glen Thomas, the first African National Congress official to be detained since a ban on the organization was lifted on February 2, has been released by police after protests from Britain, the United States and other western nations. (AP)

Nato test blast

Sydney — Seventy-five tonnes of high explosives were detonated at the Woomera testing range, South Australia, in a joint Australian-British military trial to test a new design of ammunition warehouse for Nato.

Warplane deal

Athens — The Greek Government has decided to renegotiate two agreements with France and the US to buy 80 warplanes for which Greece claims it paid far over the odds.

Britain backs move against boat people

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is joining Hong Kong and six Asian nations in a warning to the United States, threatening to stop Vietnamese boat people landing at ports in the region.

It will be the toughest diplomatic move so far in their campaign to persuade Washington to drop its opposition to an international agreement to send the boat people back to Vietnam.

The initiative comes mainly from The Association of South-East Asian Nations, the six non-communist countries affected, but is strongly supported by Britain and Hong Kong.

The text is still under discussion but Whitehall sources said it was likely to go ahead. It will be presented by the ambassadors of the Asian countries and Britain to the State Department.

A senior source said yesterday that exasperation among the Asian countries had reached a point where they were determined to con-

front the Americans. Their anger has been caused by an increase this year in the number of boat people arriving in Indonesia.

Malaysia and Thailand have been preventing boat people from landing, but officially still subscribe to the "principle of asylum" under which boat people are allowed to land, a principle they are now threatening to abandon.

Many of the boats which in the past would have headed for Hong Kong now go to Indonesia. Moves by the British and Hong Kong authorities to send back boat people to Vietnam have made Hong Kong a less attractive destination.

Hong Kong expects to run out of volunteers to return to Vietnam in September, and will then be left with 40,000 people still in the camps. Unless the United States drops its objections to mandatory repatriation, they could remain in the camps indefinitely.



BABIES in a Manila hospital wearing sashes to dramatize an appeal by their parents for the Philippines Government to take more substantial steps to protect them from the adverse effects of tobacco. The appeal came during events yesterday to mark the third World No-Tobacco Day, whose theme

this year is "Childhood and Youth without Tobacco". In Geneva the World Health Organization said that up to 500 million people — one in 10 of today's world population — would die of tobacco-related diseases such as lung cancer if present tobacco consumption trends continued. A

WHO report published yesterday said as well as lung cancer, smokers were dying from respiratory diseases. Recent studies showed that the lives of smokers aged between 35 and 69 could be shortened by 15 to 20 years. Studies also showed that a child living at home with tobacco-addicted parents

was exposed to exhaled smoke equivalent to 80 cigarettes a year, or the nicotine of a quarter of a cigarette per day, it said. In Kuwait Mr Abdul-Rahman al-Awadi, the Planning Minister, said yesterday nearly half of Kuwait's junior and senior high school pupils smoked.

Marcos widow collapses in court

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK

MRS IMELDA Marcos, the former Philippines first lady, was taken apparently unconscious from a court here yesterday after slumping forward, bleeding from her mouth and nose during her fraud trial.

Mrs Marcos, aged 60, was taken to a nurses' station in the federal courthouse, then on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance, wearing an oxygen mask. The Emergency Medical Service said she was taken to New York Hospital.

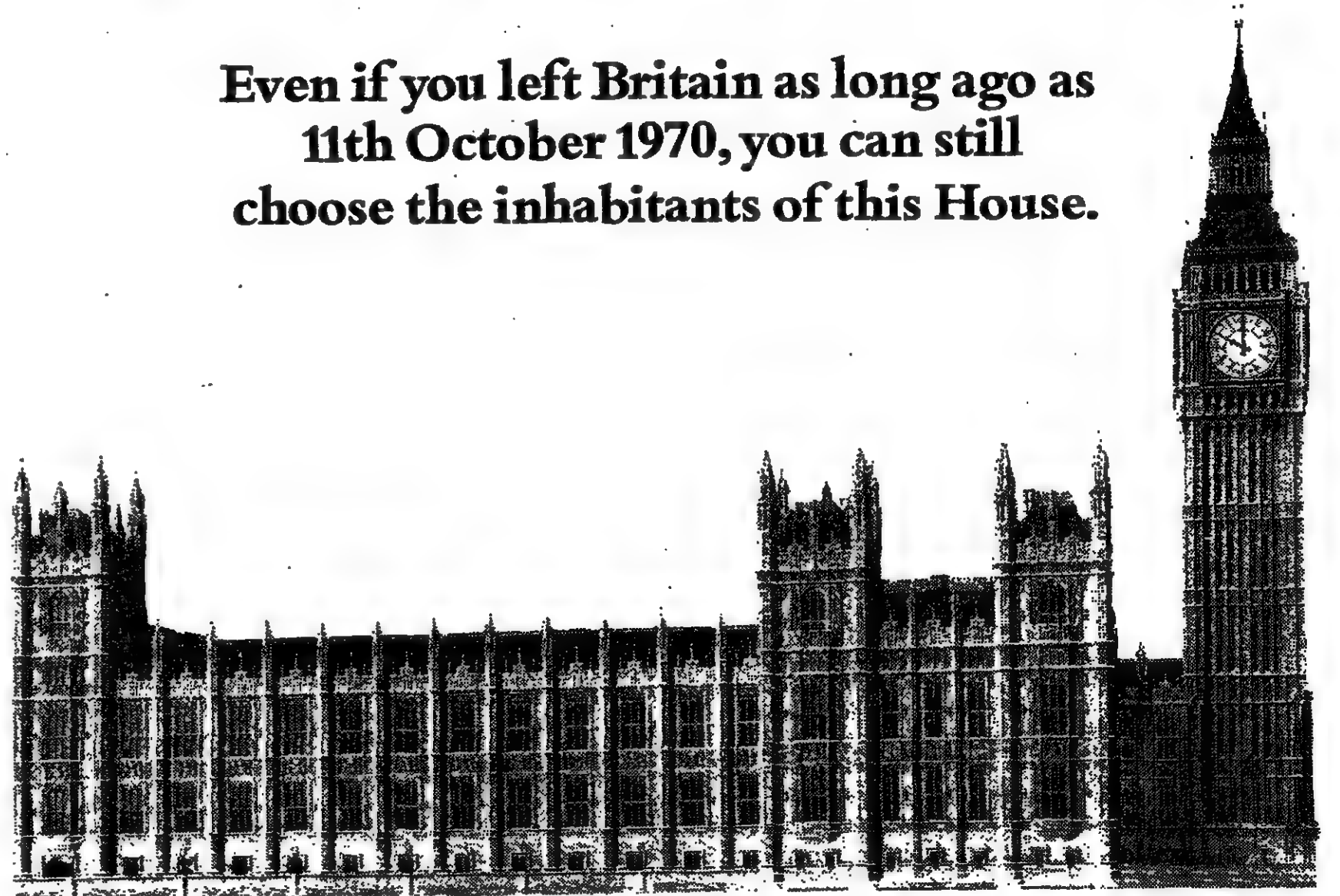
The incident occurred just as Mrs Marcos's lawyer, Mr Gerry Spence, completed his cross-examination of a witness. US District Judge John F. Keenan ordered the courtroom cleared and adjourned the trial until Tuesday. As on previous occasions, the illness occurred as testimony involving her family was being heard.

Mrs Marcos has denied racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice.

Her co-defendant, Mr Adnan Khashoggi, is charged with mail fraud and obstruction of justice for allegedly helping the Marcoses hide their ownership of an art collection and four Manhattan buildings.

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Even if you left Britain as long ago as 11th October 1970, you can still choose the inhabitants of this House.



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People who left the UK before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.

You no longer need to declare an intention to return to the UK.

Your vote will be cast in the constituency in which you or your family were registered before leaving the UK.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by 10th October 1990*

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact your nearest British diplomatic or consular post.

*15TH SEPTEMBER IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

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Murder by any other name

Philip Howard

Moral outrage plays hell with newspaper adjectives. The IRA murder of two Australian tourists brought a rush of blood to the head and to the newsprint earlier this week. So we had "bloody butchers" (the adjective weakens the noun: butchers tend to be bloodstained anyway), and "cold-blooded killers" (ditto). We had "casual brutality" and "innocent victims", as though British soldiers who are murdered are not also innocent.

It is not surprising that newspapers, like everybody else, are disgusted by murder, and reach for words to scream their disgust. But the trouble with such Shock Horror shouting is that it suffers from a law of diminishing linguistic returns. Once you have called murderers bloody butchers or mad dogs, what have you got left in your word-box for the next enormity? Such hyperbole plays the game of the murderers by dramatizing their crime. Purple prose is not the best mode for describing bloody deeds. Cold heads and cool prose are the more effective way to deal with hot acts.

Plain murder itself is a strong word. It has the primal curse upon it, and needs no adjectives. I know that Victorian newspaper boys are said to have enjoyed shouting "Ghastly murder" and "Gruesome murder" through the pea-soupers. They thought it was good for trade. But murder is ghastly on its own. Epithets tend to weaken it. Dickens, who was a good journalist as well as a great novelist, took this point, even though he was never a man to be economical with his adjectives. Remember when Bill Sikes has murdered Nancy and he is haunted by Highgate Hill and back by the plain word MURDER. Dickens's contemporary, *The Times*, did not take the point. Contrary to popular misapprehensions among people who never read it, *The Times* has seldom been a stuffy paper. It got its sobriquet, *The Thunderer*, not from bringing down the government, but from its racy treatment of a scandal in high society. There is a note from Delane, the great founding editor, in his overnight memo book which reads: "That was a good murder you had last week."

The Times ran amuck with its adjectives of murder and mutilation (an offence unknown to English law) during the Ripper autumn of 1888. We wrote no fewer than six Ripper editorials during the four months, encrusted with gory epithets and the purple prose of moral outrage (as well as 19 quotations from classical authors in the original Latin and Greek). But far more effective was the unadorned description of the scene, running to many columns, and making the gorge rise. Much the most heart-stopping headline of that autumn was the plain: "Another Whitechapel murder". When describing ghastly events,

we do better to avoid emotional words, which are likely to prove inadequate unless we are masters of emotion (few journalists are). We must be careful to use neutral, descriptive words, rather than words of moral outrage, which bolster the paranoia of murderers just as much as using their bogus military nomenclature. The most general word in this well-populated field is "kill", which can be applied to any death-dealing activity. "Murder" refers less ambiguously to the crime in which one person intentionally kills another. These are the strongest, because the coldest, words for most circumstances. "Slay" has biblical resonances these days, though I agree it is a nice short word for screaming untemperament headlines.

Murderers prefer us to use more ornate words for what they have done. "Assassinate" is to murder a celebrity, usually a political leader. I do not see why celebs should have special treatment. "Assassinate" may sound more heroic, and we should deny murder such connotations. "Execute" should be reserved for capital punishment exacted by a state in reprisal for certain crimes. It is a word preferred by murderers, because it implies some legal or moral sanction for their acts. "Dispatch" can be used for official and formal killing, and also for the coup de grace, the stroke of death itself. It is another euphemism, preferred by murderers, and therefore to be avoided by us.

"Butcher" and "slaughter" both refer to the killing of animals for food. The meat industry prefers "slaughter", because "butcher" has connotations of brutality and incompetence, and because it also means to carve after death. Slaughter suggests killing great numbers of people: Visigoth hordes who advance across Europe, sacking and slaughtering. "Massacre" usually applies to the brutal killing of large numbers of people. "Holocaust" literally means the complete burning of a victim. It should be reserved for the mass-murder of the Jews by the Nazis in the last war. Most other uses now sound grotesquely disproportionate.

Murderers would much prefer that we used noble or euphemistic words that make their killings seem other than what they are. But in journalism, as in life, it is a good idea to call a spade a spade, and a murderer a murderer, not a mad dog. The first and greatest war reporter, 24 centuries ago, knew the way that moral outrage and murder corrupt language. "The ordinary meaning of words was changed as the ideologies wanted. Terrorism came to be called loyalty, moderation was called cowardice or wetness. Violent impulsiveness was considered the behaviour of a loyalist, but stopping to think things out was reckoned the act of a traitor." Keep a cold pen when writing about murder.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Tuesday was a really bad day. I could concentrate on nothing. You must know how it is when, every time a plane goes over, you look up, in case it is your cheese flying to Montevideo. You would not be able to see it, even if it were, but that makes no difference. Pratt & Whitney rattle your mullions, you break off from what you are doing, you peer out, you see a vapour trail, and you think: *Is that my Reblochon?*

Whereafter, and for some time, you can concentrate on little else. It had all begun the night before, at Nice airport. I had been looking forward to buckling myself into my snug little 757 for a 20.50 departure, but this was not to be. For it was not only Bank Holiday Monday, it was also Monaco Grand Prix weekend, a double-header which no self-respecting French air-traffic militant could ignore; and in consequence the place seethed with drunks who should by now have been sleeping it off on their own sofas instead of crawling around the departure lounge on all fours, gabbling about Mansell's clapped-out gearbox and wondering whether there was time for another quick one.

There was. We did not get off until 22.40; and what we got off in, furthermore, was not a 757 but a 747, to enable the strike-struck backlog to be cleared up in one fell swoop. The result was that 500 wrecks arrived at Heathrow two hours late and looked at the three cab-drivers who hadn't yet decided to sod this for a game of soldiers. In the queue which subsequently formed, I was perhaps 44th; it was thus 2am when the moment came for me to left into the cab the two suitcases which I had so far only nudged forward with my foot, and discover that the smaller was far lighter than it should have been.

I opened it. It had a white tuxedo in it. I had not checked in a white tuxedo. I had checked in 10kg of Reblochon, St Helier, Vieux Pane, Camembert, and a big block of Bleu d'Auvergne so wondrously marbled that, had you invited Michelangelo over for dinner, he would have had a chisel on it before you could get the cellophane off the water-biscuits.

But where was it now? I snatched up both cases and ran back into the terminal. There was a desk. There was a girl. But there was no suitcase identical to the one I was jabbering about. There was no suitcase at all. All the luggage from flight BA 2343 had been claimed. Some of it, moreover, by passengers connecting with international departures. Even as I spoke, an engine throttled up for take-off. Could be the cheese, en route for Zaire.

I left the small suitcase, and took a piece of paper which said "Details of your missing luggage have been entered into a worldwide baggage-tracing computer system" (the heart sank) "and, in the unlikely event you have not been reunited with your luggage within 24 hours, ring..."

I almost wept at "reunited". I had seen a lot of movies like that. True, they had not involved men and suitcases running towards one another in slow motion, weeping, while Henri Mancini brought up the string section, but the principle was not dissimilar. This, however, was the other one. This was the one about the suitcase flying out to a new life with someone else while the camera pulled slowly back on the lonely figure standing on the tarmac.

I got in at 3am, but I couldn't sleep. I kept thinking about the other man. Was some red-eyed Formula One buff even now fending off the left jab of a waiting spouse who had been expecting a jargon of Channel No 5, not 20lb of lard? And what about the white tux? Did it happen an invitation to some Grand Ball in, say, Rio, and, if so, what would come over him as he snapped the locks? Still, if it was fancy-dress, he could always hang the cheeses round with a milk-subsidy. Might pull the big prize. Might win a set of luggage.

So Tuesday was a bad day. But Wednesday was better. Wednesday, the doorbell rang. It was a BA courier. You have to hand it to British Airways, especially if they've just handed it to you.

The cheese was all there, but I haven't tried it yet. I keep hearing my mother's voice saying don't eat that, you never know where it's been.

Malcolm Wicks on the legal reforms being considered for marriage break-up

Legislating for a less messy divorce

The Government is clearly in difficulty about divorce law. That reform is required is widely accepted, and has been advocated most authoritatively by the Law Commission. But new legislation might appear merely to encourage divorce, and this is the dilemma for the "Party of the Family".

This illustrates a wider anxiety for the Government. During the past decade virtually all of the key indicators have moved against the notion of the traditional family. Cohabitation and births outside marriage are increasing, marriage rates are in decline, divorce is high, there are more single mothers, and one child in eight lives in a one-parent family. In the face of this, how can the government reform divorce law, yet avoid legislation which indicates a blasé attitude to nuclear family fission?

Since the Divorce Law Reform Act of 1969, for England and Wales, the divorce rate has increased from six per 1,000 married

couples in 1971 to 13 by 1988. During the 1980s divorce reached a plateau, but at a very high level. If this level continues, 37 per cent of recent marriages can be expected to end in divorce; at least one in five new-born children will have parents who divorce before the children reach 16. Every year 150,000 marriages end in divorce; and approximately the same number of children are affected.

Currently the law prescribes that the sole ground for divorce is irretrievable breakdown of marriage. Breakdown can be proved by one of five facts: adultery; unreasonable behaviour; desertion for at least two years (where both parties agree to divorce); and separation for a continuous period of five years. In practice "fault" is central to divorce law, and in 1987 73 per cent of decrees were based on adultery or unreasonable behaviour. The emphasis on fault is a major cause for concern. Most now agree that the needs

of children should be central to policy reform. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has argued that there is a conflict between the needs of children in the process and the fault ground for divorce - "a tension, if not a form of institutional hypocrisy". How can you accuse your spouse of cruelty and then sit down calmly to discuss the children?

More generally there have been anxieties in recent years about the overall impact of marital breakdown on children. Whatever the psychological impact, the financial and material consequences are clear. After divorce, many lone mothers and their children are simply poor, dependent on state social security, living meagre lives on the official breadline. In 1988, 400,000 divorced or separated lone mothers - about two-thirds - were dependent on supplementary benefit (income support).

What should now be done? In its 1988 report, *Facing the Future*, the Law Commission concluded

that there were two options: divorce after a period of separation, which had "none of the disadvantages associated with fault-based facts and has the important merit of simplicity", and divorce after a period of transition, "in which the parties are given time and encouragement to reflect and make the necessary arrangements for the future".

It is likely to be the second proposal which the Law Commission will discuss more fully in its final report, now apparently delayed but expected in the autumn. If the Government were now to advocate simply a single separation criterion it would find itself open to the charge that legislation was virtually encouraging family breakdown - an unfair charge, but one which would sting. The Law Commission is well aware of what its critics will say and wants to make its proposals as watertight as possible.

Lord Mackay is known to favour processes which would

encourage satisfactory arrangements for children. How exactly this can be done is the rub. In recent years there have been experiments in Britain with conciliation, often with satisfactory results. Should conciliation be mandatory? It is in Australia. In 1983 I spent a day in a Melbourne family court. I sat in on a conciliation session: couples were lectured by a counsellor, a psychologist, about how they would feel and the issues they would face. Despite his efforts my impression was that "conciliation" was too formalized, merely another barrier to be overcome before the divorce could be obtained.

It need not be like this, as good practice in some parts of Britain shows. How to encourage conciliation, and remove the conflict from divorce, without making it formalized and compulsory, is probably the most difficult question.

The author is the Director of the Family Policy Studies Centre.

Havel's velvet revolution looks for a friendly hand

Czechoslovakia's first free election in more than 40 years was set by President Havel for June 8, to allow time for "democratic discussion". Wenceslas Square and "Prikopy", the broad and once elegant thoroughfare that leads to it, seem more like the campus of the University of California at Berkeley during the free speech movement than the centre of Czechoslovakia's capital. The graffiti and wall newspapers, broadsheets, loudspeakers and bearded television crews - here and in many other towns of Bohemia and Moravia - indicate that the "velvet revolution" has got stuck in a groove of good-tempered and apparently permanent agitation.

The election will be contested by 23 parties: the printing presses, publishers and newspaper offices are working overtime, and even the girl assistants in the bookshops are almost polite. Mr Havel's authority continues all but unquestioned, and his party, Civic Forum, which started as an organization "above all parties", is almost certain to have a majority in the next coalition. The President's immensely popular Sunday afternoon interviews - a remarkable mixture of high intelligence, diffidence, irony and didacticism - are television highlights.

But the neglect and spoliation of 40 years of communist incompetence, corruption and waste are visible everywhere. Prague's beautiful Gothic and baroque facades have been repainted, many of its finest churches are being restored, the grandest hotels (some built under American supervision by Yugoslav labour) flaunt luxury at astronomical prices, but everywhere else there are signs of neglect. Driving from the Austrian border through the little towns of southern Bohemia, with their once-famous squares, I was saddened by views of squalid poverty and dirt, each town ringed by a desolation of high-rise buildings. Most fields have been left to grass, but there are no grazing cattle and no horses or sheep to be seen (the cows are kept in giant factory farms). The rivers are polluted, as is the air in most towns. It is disconcerting to remember that this was once Central Europe's richest industrial and agricultural heartland.

Yet while Czechoslovakia has been among the last satellite countries to rid itself of its communist rulers, it is certain to be the first to achieve a stable and efficient economy. This is likely to comprise a mixture of private



J.P. Stern on the new alliances that could make, or break, the new 'Czech and Slovak Federal Republic'

capitalism, some state ownership (though greatly reduced), and an efficient system of social welfare. It will probably be on the lines of the Austrian economy, though (one hopes) without Austria's politico-economic corruption.

As a consequence of its newfound liberty, the country is facing an acute problem of national identity. The trouble began when President Havel suggested - as he was bound to - that the country drop the word "socialist" and revert to the name used before the Munich agreement of 1938: the "Czechoslovak Republic". In a long debate in Parliament, the Slovaks protested that the word "Czechoslovak" failed to reflect their status in the federal structure. A third possibility, "Czecho-Slovak", was unacceptable to the Czechs because of its association with the disastrous Second Republic which existed between Munich and the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia in 1939. So the country is to be called the "Czech and Slovak Federal Republic". In this language-conscious country, the farcical quarrel highlights the differences between

the two elements, and shows that it is the Czechs, not the Slovaks, who are loyal to the conception of a Czechoslovak state.

Throughout the war, the Slovaks had their own state of sorts, while Bohemia and Moravia were a German "protectorate". Though the Slovak state was created on the ruins of the First Republic and is remembered with shame as one of Germany's wartime satellites, it gave the people a taste of independence. Unlike the Lithuanians, the Slovaks did not provide recruits for the "Auslands-SS", although 60,000 of them fought on the Russian front as Germany's allies. After the coup of 1948, only 6 per cent of Slovaks voted for the Czech communists, against 37 per cent in Bohemia and Moravia. The communists sought greater Slovak support by investing heavily in the Slovak economy, a policy much resented in the western part of the country, but which paid off the popular uprising of last November, like the Prague Spring of 1968, was inspired by Czech intellectuals and found little support in Slovakia. Ludvik Vaculik, one of Bohemia's finest liberal essayists, has written: "By sundering our connection with the Slovaks, which it is entirely within our power to do, we shall be rid of our economic losses. Speaking politically, we shall have disposed of the problem of the Hungarian and Ruthenian minorities. We shall have placed one more frontier between the Soviet Union and ourselves. We shall at last have a single government... And, being on our own, we shall undoubtedly catch up more quickly with the more highly developed states [of Western Europe]."

And Vaculik concludes that close co-operation with Austria will lead the Czechs to a more fruitful federation or union than did the long years when they tried to cope with Slovak recriminations and feelings of inferiority. These words, from one of the earliest members of Charter 77 and a man of undoubted patriotism, are indeed astonishing. Here, albeit in its mildest form, is the fissiparous process of Central European minority politics all over again. This is the process to which the First Republic owed its

existence, yet also the one which left it at the mercy of its strong neighbour. Germany may no longer be considered a military threat, but its economic ambitions could hardly fail to be strengthened if the creation of an independent Slovak state were to diminish further the productive potential of her closest eastern neighbour.

It is almost half a century since the German occupation, yet the memory of those terrible years is never far away. Visiting a little country churchyard in Eastern Bohemia on a brilliant Sunday morning, I was shown around by the elderly verger. The chapel on the brow of the hill was in ruins, but the churchyard itself was well tended. He led me to the family grave I had come to visit, then pointed to a solitary gravestone: "We thought they too should be buried here." The inscription on the rough granite contained no name, only a date in 1943 and five long numbers. "We found them at the bottom of the railway embankment. They were on their journey to the camps. The guards must have thrown them off the cattle trucks. All we ever found out about them were the numbers they had tattooed on them."

Memories such as these, which are shared by more than one generation, indicate what courage President Havel needed when he spoke words of conciliation at his first meeting with President von Weizsäcker in Berlin, and when he called for a commission to look into the barbaric post-war expulsion of three million Sudeten Germans. It is true that he and his government have so far done little more than make statements and proposals, but of these, by far the most important is his perception that the country must enter into a positive relationship with its largest neighbour, Germany.

Vaclav Havel is blessed with many qualities unusual in a Central European politician, among them modesty. He is picking up political skills as he goes along. Like most Czech intellectuals and like playwrights the world over, he is apt to overestimate "the power of the word". Of course words count, especially in a pre-election era. But PR is not enough. Once the election is over, some of the words at least must be turned into deeds. Everything Havel has said so far suggests that he knows that. The author, a native of Prague, recently returned to Czechoslovakia for the first time in 21 years.

Recanting on Rushdie?

Is the commitment of the literary world to the Rushdie cause beginning to wane? Penguin is about to be upstaged by West Germany, which will become the second country after Norway to publish a paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses*. The book will be published by Arkell 19 Verlag, a consortium of 30 German publishers which takes its title from Article 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights on freedom of speech. With Penguin still dragging its feet on a paperback edition in Britain, some of Salman Rushdie's strongest supporters fear that other signs indicate the literary establishment is beginning to tire of the issue.

This weekend PEN, the international writers' organization, holds a meeting at the South Bank on the theme "Censorship and the Responsibility of the Writer", and it is anxious that Rushdie should not dominate the occasion. Josephine Pallen-Thompson, the general secretary, says PEN wants to broaden the subject matter. "We don't slacken our support for Rushdie one inch, but we also want to support other writers who are in prison," she said yesterday. The South African novelist Nadine Gordimer, a supporter of the Rushdie cause, is also keen to talk about something else: her subject of "Censorship and its Aftermath" will mention Rushdie only in passing, and will emphasize the plight of other exiled writers.

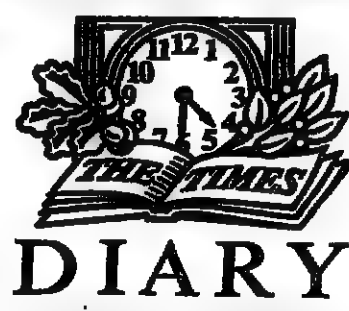
Further evidence of the trend came at the Hay-on-Wye festival this week at which Arthur Miller,

brave opponent of McCarthyism, and Fay Weldon, who is usually outspoken about Rushdie, offered platitudes on new freedoms in Eastern Europe - but worked overtime to deflect attempts by journalist John Pilger to bring Rushdie into the debate.

Fonteyn goes home

He return to centre-stage of Dame Margot Fonteyn, the prima ballerina assoluta, was a fleeting one. The frail star spent little more than 24 hours in Britain, and before the Covent Garden gala performance in her honour spent the day out of the public eye with old friends in the countryside. Fonteyn was deeply touched by the decision to hold a fundraising gala, and clearly enjoyed reliving happy memories as she mingled with old friends and admirers into the early hours of the morning at a private party given by one of her most ardent admirers, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild. When it was over she retired to her room at Claridges, and took the first flight home to Panama yesterday morning.

Fonteyn, who suffers poor health and is far from rich, continues to reject the urgings of old friends to leave the rudimentary farmhouse that since 1983 has been her home, and where she nursed her late husband, Roberto Tito Arias, until his death last year. One of the organizers of the gala performance said yesterday: "It was like coming home when she walked on to the Covent Garden stage. She is immensely touched by the way people have rallied round her. But she did not want to be the centre of attention for too long."



Into extra time

For a man attuned to the rigours of publishing and deadlines, Bill Buford, editor of *Granta* magazine, is remarkably relaxed when it comes to producing his own work on time. Secker & Warburg had hoped to publish *Among the Thugs*, Buford's study of football hooliganism, in time for the World Cup next week, but Buford has so far delivered scarcely half the manuscript. The publisher was yesterday putting a brave face on it. "We would have liked to publish it before the World Cup, but it's far from being the end of the world. The subject will go on being newsworthy for the next 25 years," says Secker's Dan Franklin. He blames the delay on the move of *Granta*'s offices from Cambridge to London, but clearly Buford's laid-back attitude has played a part. "The book will be finished when I've finished it," he says philosophically. "I flatter myself it isn't merely topical."

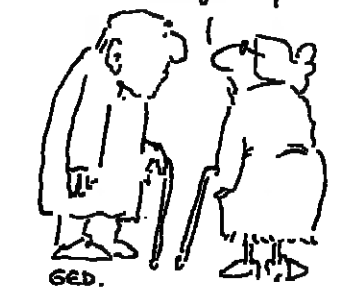
He now says he expects to finish the book in the next two weeks, for publication in August. It has been listed for imminent

publication in Secker's last two catalogues, stretching back over a year, and has been puffed, sight unseen, as "shocking, provocative and brilliantly written". It will be, of course.

Late developer

A debut at the National Theatre is a big event in any actor's life, particularly for one more than a hundred years old. The comedy actress Athene Seyler, who first appeared on the stage when Edward VII was on the throne, finally fulfilled her ambition at the Cottesloe last night, on the occasion of her 101st birthday, beating the previous record for the oldest National performer,

I'd like to be an actress when I grow up.



held by 94-year-old Douglas Byng. Seyler, who is credited with having discovered John Gielgud, and who was a close friend of Sybil Thorneycroft, was a fine nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and a majestic Mrs Malaprop in *The Rivals*. Last night the Cottesloe Theatre was packed for her trip down memory lane, after which she

fielded questions. Seyler confesses that old age suits her. "I quite like it. I have so many happy memories." On her last trip to the National, she inadvertently upstaged the actors from her seat in the stalls, when, during a particularly uninspiring production, one of the two actors on stage failed to utter a large yawn. In a voice louder than she intended, and to the delight of the equally bored audience around her, Seyler boomed: "I do so agree."

Simple season

And so to Chichester, where Michael Rudman has just begun his first season as festival theatre director, the job once held by Laurence Olivier. A taxing task, surely? "Not really," says Rudman, who has scheduled 10 plays between now and October. "The entire season took 14 minutes to plan. Two minutes to dictate a letter to Sir Peter Hall, four minutes to offer a play to producer Peter Wood, two minutes to thank Penelope Keith for her congratulations on my getting the job and recruit her for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, four minutes to get Neil Simon on the phone, one minute to get his delighted approval for a British premiere, and one minute to remember Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*. And has all this hard work paid off? Rudman recalls a dinner in a club in New York when he overheard one man at a neighbouring table instruct another: "Shut up and pretend to look as though you know what you are doing." Second advice, says Rudman: "With three plays up and running in his first season, it is beginning to pay off."



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PROTECTING BEEF-EATERS

The French Government's decision to prohibit the import of British beef and live cattle is an act of naked protectionism which may yet bankrupt many dairy farmers in this country. The Rocard Government has moved the debate on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from the national plane on to that of the European Community.

Despite yesterday's rejection by France of the Commission's request to lift the ban, it may prove to be no more than a gesture to impress the French public. Unless it is voluntarily rescinded, the French ban will test British confidence in the European Commission.

After some equivocation, the commissioner responsible for the operation of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), Mr Ray MacSharry, did formally criticize the ban yesterday, but failed to spell out sanctions with which to enforce his ruling. Mr MacSharry's statement makes it clear that the French had not even consulted Brussels before flouting the public health measures agreed on by the Community partners last January to halt the spread of BSE. A more serious blow to the Commission's prestige would be difficult to conceive.

Unfortunately the Agriculture Secretary, Mr John Gummer, has not distinguished himself in the important matter of reassuring beef-eaters that everything possible is being done to investigate, elucidate and extirpate this peculiarly loathsome disease. The ridiculous spectacle of Mr Gummer feeding beefburgers to his daughter was only the silliest of his recent gaffes. A minister who has such difficulty convincing his domestic audience is hardly the right man to coax Francophone sceptics, yet that is a large part of his job.

Lately some sign of a revival in domestic beef sales has, however, suggested that the "mad cow" scare might be abating. Mr Gummer and his lieutenant, Mr David Curry, undoubtedly deserve sympathy for the way in which their French counterparts now appear to have double-crossed them.

The French Agriculture Minister, M Henri Nallet, has sided with his farming lobby. His farmers fear competition from cheap British beef exports. Until this week, there was little evidence of disquiet among French consumers. Apart from the token display of dispatching a

veterinary team to examine British counter-measures, Paris has disregarded the public health aspects of BSE and seems instead to be batten down the hatches for an old-fashioned trade war.

Protecting home markets under the guise of protecting public health defies the spirit as well as the letter of Community law, let alone the more liberal system due to be introduced after 1992. The French wish to spread alarm while raising domestic beef prices for as long as it takes for the glut produced by the slaughter of British herds to be dissipated.

The Commission, in the shape of Mr MacSharry, should issue an ultimatum to the French Government to revoke its ban this week or be taken to the European Court of Justice. In case of non-compliance, he should give notice that subsidies to French farmers under the CAP may be withheld until Paris sees fit to obey Community law. If this proves insufficient, the Commission should threaten to deprive France temporarily of other privileges of Community membership.

The fact that the Commission is unlikely to do any of these things, and will probably play for time even as British farmers suffer strangulation, underlines the depressing truth that the Community remains not a free-trade association but primarily an agricultural cartel. The CAP, though often reformed, is a primitive, expensive and — as the EC Court of Auditors yet again pointed out this week — wildly corrupt version of an old British prices and incomes policy.

Thanks to the basic conflict between the Community's free market principles and the CAP, governments are propelled into regular confrontations with one another on behalf of their farmers. The Council of Ministers is now considering amending the Treaty of Rome in order to realize European Union. Before doing so, governments and Commission alike should give further thought to the structural incompatibility of the Treaty's older components with the post-1992 Community of open borders and international division of labour. Once again, the hypocrisy of French politicians and Brussels bureaucrats accusing Mrs Thatcher of "not being a good European" is laid bare.

STAFFROOM RHETORIC

The new president of the National Association of Head Teachers, Mr Peter Baldwin, spoke sensibly at his annual conference in Torquay this week on a number of points. Notably, he criticized the diversion of resources from the classroom by the officials and advisers with which some local authorities burden their education departments.

His touch was less sure when he attacked what he saw as the "under-funding" of state schools. Weekly spending on books and equipment for five to 11-year-olds, he told the delegates, now runs to less than the cost of three Mars bars. "Financial reality," he said, "falls far short of politicians' rhetoric." Mr Baldwin then himself lapsed into teaching union rhetoric, which is an even less distinguished form. The level of funding of the education system, he said, was "verging on the criminal".

This is poor stuff from the leader of those entrusted with the imparting of facts to the young. The statistics for school population in England and Wales show, in the second half of the 1980s, the number of pupils in schools falling from 7.4 to 6.9 million. In the same period, the school building grant element in central government's own expenditure on education rose from £46 million to £85 million. Education support grants, running at £10 million in 1985, had risen by the end of the decade to £82 million.

The figures for local authority expenditure in the same period tell a similar tale: capital spending on schools up from £273 million to £527 million, current spending on primary and secondary schools increased from £6,343 million to £9,249 million. The figures for school unit costs are also instructive. While pupil numbers fell by 17 per cent in the past decade, expenditure per pupil rose in real terms by 42 per cent. No very conclusive

evidence of criminality there. Mr Baldwin wants more money, but shies away from any notion that he and his colleagues should assume any of the responsibility for seeing that it is better spent.

The Government's decision to switch budgetary and management responsibility from education authorities to head teachers and governors might, he said, turn out to be "the great educational con-trick of the century". Local management of schools, he asserted, was flawed because its funding formula rested on "grossly inadequate finance" in previous years. This is the language of the magic wand school of instant politics which operates on the assumption that once you have described something as a priority you can give your mind to other things.

Mr Baldwin painted a tear-jerking picture of school heads weighed down by the cares of what he called "midnight management", but his remarks should be set against a passage from the HM Inspectorate report, *Standards in Education 1987-88*: "most of the inappropriate provision and shortages of materials and equipment observed in institutions stem either from inadequate management or poor identification of needs and priorities at the institutional or departmental level rather than from an overall lack of funds".

Mr Baldwin was critical of "the philosophy of market forces and the doctrine of materialistic ambition", which he believed was being urged upon schools. He gave no indication of where these sinister creeds are to be found in the provisions of the Education Reform Act. He is tilting at windmills. He and his members should accept that only through improved management will schools be able to give what parents and the community are perfectly entitled to require of them.

HONOURS UNEVEN

That biannual prizegiving for the upwardly immobile, the Honours List, has been undergoing one of its periodic reviews. It has emerged disappointingly unscathed. After the Queen's official birthday two weeks hence the latest batch of MBEs and OBEs, the CBEs, CMGs and CHs will hire the traditional morning dress from Moss Bros and prepare to meet their Sovereign at the Palace, gumming up central London in the process. Investitures, like Wimbledon and Ascot, are part of the summer pageantry of Britain.

One contingent of medal winners, however, will receive their award in less exalted surroundings. The British Empire Medal holders — cleaners, postmen, junior civil servants, nurses, counter clerks and "have a go" men — will be invested by their local Lord Lieutenant or the minister of their Government department.

A proposal that these too should come to London, to receive their ribboned Honour from the Queen, has apparently been turned down on the ground that it would be a logistical nightmare. The Queen would suffer investiture fatigue if she had to hand out the BEMs as well. As a gesture, those submitting lists for royal garden parties will be encouraged to nominate each year's BEMs, thus ensuring them access to Buckingham Palace. A journey down The Mall would constitute a step in the right direction.

The Palace should go further, however. If the investiture of so many by the Queen does indeed appear too onerous, there are surely now enough members of the Royal Family to now enough BEM investitures could be shared. Special BEM investitures could be organized for the Prince and Princess of Wales,

the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of York or Prince Edward, perhaps for Princess Margaret or the Dukes of Gloucester and Kent. They would have a more satisfying glitter than the present system.

Many of those who now go to the Palace are civil servants, whose Honour more or less comes with the job. Others like sportsmen, captains o. industry or actors have already won fame and fortune on their own. Some have met the Queen on previous occasions.

This is not to deny them their own moment of glory. It is rather to argue for sharing it more widely. Those who might derive most pleasure from the moment are those who are conspicuously omitted. If investitures mean anything at all they should briefly illuminate the lives of village Hampdens, the sub-postmistress from the Western Isles, the voluntary workers, parish councillors and firemen.

Some BEM investitures could take place at garden parties. Not only would they make the occasion more memorable for those on whom the honour is conferred, but they would give the afternoon a focal point, providing a better chance for all to see the Royal Family. If the Palace still recoiled from the numbers then the recipients could be called forward in batches of 20.

Those receiving the award in the last New Year's Honours list totalled only 267, 27 fewer than the number of MBEs. Spread over a number of occasions this number does not sound unmanageable, even when the Birthday Honours list is added. There must be enough red carpet left in Britain to give the BEMs a sense of Honour.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War Crimes Bill and Lords decision

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point (Conservative) and Mr Mervyn Rees, MP for Leeds South and Morley (Labour)

Sir, We understand that there are indications that the House of Lords will throw out the War Crimes Bill at second reading on Monday.

It would be unfortunate if this were to happen. On three separate occasions the elected House of Commons has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the principle of the Bill and it has done so on a cross-party basis. In deciding on such action we were not leading the way, but following what has already been done by the legislatures of Australia and Canada, both of which have legal systems and a basic regard for human rights at least equal to our own.

If their Lordships decide to throw out such a Bill in the face of a decision of the elected House, the Government should reintroduce it in another session. Indeed, in our view, it would have no other option in order to deal with war crimes which, in the words of the Hetherington-Chalmers report are so monstrous that they cannot be condoned. To take no action would stain the United Kingdom with the stain of being a haven for war criminals.

Yours truly,
BERNARD BRAINE,
MERVYN REES,
House of Commons.

Charitable gifts

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, Julia Neuberger ("Wanted: charter for regular charity", May 28) is right in looking beyond high-profile events such as the ITV Television to generate charitable support. Her call for a "1990s code of giving" highlights the challenge of encouraging regular charitable support and the need for a framework which helps the smaller charities.

But, aspects of the proposed code of giving appear overzealous in its enthusiasm to convert people to regular charitable giving. It includes "instructions", for example, which should be "taught in every school". Children and young people can be enthusiastic fund-raisers but charitable work with schools should be based on educational and not

fund-raising criteria. Together with other leading Third World charities, we have recently published a leaflet explaining the need for this policy.

The most important aspect of charitable giving is its voluntary nature. It is a personal choice made by the individual donor. In turn, it is this voluntarism that gives charitable organisations their unique flexibility and independence. In building the framework for the continued success of the charitable sector it is essential that we do not lose sight of this vital characteristic.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director General,
Save the Children,
Mary Datchelor House,
17 Grove Lane,
Camberwell, SE6.
May 30.

Catholics' PR

From Mr Ronald J. MacDonald

Sir, Many Roman Catholic readers will have read with great misgiving the investigative report by Libby Purves (Media, May 23) on the appointment of FR man, Richard Pollen by the Vatican-backed organisers of "Evangelization 2000".

Evidence that their worse fears are well founded was duly provided by Mr Pollen himself when he categorically stated that the Virgin Mary has been appearing at Medjugorje in Yugoslavia, this despite the fact that the local Ordinary, Bishop Pavao Zanic of Mostar, and his commission, have overwhelmingly decided that the apparitions are not authentic.

While the verdict of a com-

munion of the Bishops' Conference of Yugoslavia is now awaited, Church authorities, including the Holy See, have demanded, without effect, that there be no further organized pilgrimages or other manifestations motivated by the supernatural character attributed to the events in Medjugorje.

In the circumstances, Mr Pollen would do well to remember his own words, with which his Purves interview concludes: "On indeed. There are some areas where Pollen's just got to keep his mouth shut".

Yours faithfully,
RONALD J. MACDONALD,
82 Stirling Drive,
Bishopbriggs,
Glasgow,
May 23.

Airline pilots

From Mr John Izbic

Sir, Dr Roger Green, of the Institute of Aviation Medicine, in his address to the Royal Aeronautical Society conference in London (report, May 24), claimed that air pilots were "not as bright as the average undergraduate but about as bright as people who go to a polytechnic or technical college".

He clearly does not know that the country's 35 polytechnics produce an annual crop of first and higher degree holders with intellectual skills as high a standard as those of the best of university graduates.

Dr Green is equally confused between polytechnics and technical colleges. The latter cater for further education students, possess no royal charter, and do no degree or postgraduate work.

Most airline pilots I have met were not only clever but also intelligent. But I am sure I can leave them to defend themselves against Dr Green.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN IZBICKI,
(Director of Public Affairs),
Committee of Directors
of Polytechnics,
Kirkman House,
12-14 Whitfield Street, W1.
May 25.

Sale of goods law

From Mr H. Mitchell, QC

Sir, Professor Roy Goode ("Why compromise makes sense", The Law, May 22) argues that the adoption of the Vienna Convention on Contracts simplifies questions of conflict of laws. I suggest that, on the contrary, the adoption of the Convention would introduce unnecessary conflict of law questions which would add to the complexity, cost and uncertainties of commercial litigation.

It is asking for trouble to have two different codes forming part of English law. It will by no means always be clear that a particular contract is a contract for the sale of goods rather than the supply of services or a mixture of the two; nor will it always be clear that a particular contract is for the international sale of goods.

These two issues will need to be settled at the outset if there is a contract subject to English law once the Convention has been adopted and made part of English law. If the finding is that there is a

contract for the international sale of goods, one then has to ascertain whether the question in dispute is one which can be resolved by reference to the Convention.

If it relates, e.g., to the passing of title then it cannot be so resolved because the Convention makes no attempt to tackle that fundamental question. On that and on a number of issues the Convention is silent and one has to go back to purely domestic law.

Professor Goode makes no reference to the Uniform Laws on International Sales Act 1967, by which effect was given in this country to two 1964 Hague Conventions relating respectively to uniform law on the international sale of goods and to a uniform law on the formation of contracts for the international sale of goods. Between them these two Conventions provide a rather more comprehensive code than

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Need for history in curriculum

From Professor Patrick Collinson and others

Sir, As your readers will be aware, the final report of the history working party on the National Curriculum has provoked some controversy among historians. A heated argument has developed about precisely where to draw the line between "knowledge" and "understanding" in the teaching of history. But quarrels over the menu will be beside the point if the menu itself is whisked away.

We write to alert your readers to worrying rumours that the Government may be reconsidering its commitment to history as a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. In response to this, over 115 members of this faculty have written to the Secretary of State for Education to express their concern. Let it be thought that this anxiety is merely an expression of "corporate self-interest", we should like to draw readers' attention to the broader issue at stake.

During the last 25 years British citizens have been confronted with a number of important questions in which the identity and direction of this country have been put in doubt: membership of the European Community, Scottish and Welsh autonomy, the troubles in Northern Ireland, the new laws on citizenship and immigration, current debates about multi-culturalism in the schools, and the agitation of religious minorities, to mention only the most prominent.

During the same period, apart from the small minority who have pursued O and A-level courses, there has been a lack of any systematic attention to the teach-

ing of history in the schools. The result has been the coming-of-age of a generation lacking a broader historical or political context in which these issues can be thought out.

The arbitrary smatterings of history now offered to children as part of generalised humanities courses, too often parochial in vision and partial in viewpoint, have arguably increased the sense of fragmentation by which this country is beset. We, therefore, applauded the decision of the Government to make history a foundation subject in the National Curriculum.

We did so, not because we wished to advance the professional interests of historians, who are quite capable of looking after themselves, but because we believe that a nation with only a vague and confused sense of its past will be ill-equipped to confront the painful choices which will shape its future.

In our opinion it would, therefore, be a tragedy if disagreements among historians about the precise points of emphasis should lead the Government or the general public to conclude that our support for the inclusion of history as a foundation subject in the National Curriculum is less than whole-hearted.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK COLLINSON (Regius Professor of History, Cambridge),
GARETH STEEDMAN JONES (Chairman),
JAY WINTER (Secretary),
History Faculty Board,
University of Cambridge,
West Road, Cambridge.
May 29.

Computer hacking

From Mr Michael Colvin, MP for Romsey and Waterside (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Peter Sommer (May 27) suggests that my Computer Misuse Bill, currently before Parliament, would be undermined by the decision of the courts to convict Nicholas Whiteley for hacking into the Joint Academic Network under the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

This was done because of the absence of any computer crime laws in Britain. The Law Commission report on which my Bill is based recommended that neither an unauthorised modification of a computer's memory or computer storage medium, nor any resulting impairment of computer operations or data, should be capable of amounting to criminal damage under the 1971 Act.

One reason for this recommendation was that if it is accepted that the new offence of unauthorised modification should deal with all computer interference cases, and carry a maximum

penalty of five years' imprisonment, it would not be right to perpetuate the present confusion, and also expose offenders to potentially higher penalties — up to 10 years in prison — by continuing to use the 1971 Act.

This recommendation, which is provided for in the Bill, would not of course prejudice the operation of the 1971 Act in cases where the unauthorised modification leads to actual physical damage.

For example, if a computer-operated store were reprogrammed so that it ruined a load of timber, then (subject in both cases to the presence of the appropriate mens rea) the reprogramming would amount to unauthorised modification and the consequent damage to the timber would come within section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

Any confusion is in Peter Sommer's mind, not in the Computer Misuse Bill.

Yours truly,
MICHAEL COLVIN,
House of Commons.
May 28.

Blood transfusions

From Dr Gerald Smith

Sir, Dr John Stevens (May 22) is quite right. Most patients who need a planned operation are eligible on medical grounds to have their own (autologous) blood collected in the weeks preceding surgery. In appropriate cases, this approach can be supplemented with "blood salvage" during the operation using special blood cell savers.

The majority of these patients could therefore be entirely self-sufficient and, moreover, release scarce donor blood for others who cannot provide their own, such as children and patients with leukaemia or other blood disorders.

Several colleagues and I provide a preoperative autologous blood collection service to the NHS and to a number of private hospitals. The facility is little used in the NHS because of problems predicting the operation date more than a day or two in advance.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD SMITH
(Consultant haematologist),
Guy's Hospital,
St Thomas Street, SE1.
May 24.

Royal salute

From Mr J. A. Leavy

Sir, What should we suppose will be the reaction of Pravda and others to the clenched fists with which the Etonians greeted the Queen (photograph, May 30)?

Yours sincerely,
J. A. LEAVY,
30 Pembroke Gardens Close, W8.
May 30.

Jewish sanctuary

From Mrs G. M. Norton

Sir, Conor Cruise O'Brien ("Israel, victim of the East-West thaw", May 29) has made one error, the relevance of which provides the *raison d'être* of the state of Israel. He states that "as in 1933-39, no country other than Israel is prepared to receive so many people". Before 1948 there was no state of Israel and the territory of Palestine was under the British mandate. The Foreign Office, according to Arab pressure, refused to admit the Jewish refugees vainly trying to escape from Europe.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. NORTON,
140 Loughborough Road,
Ruddington,
Nottingham.
May 29.

Beating the drought

From Mr Arthur Trick

Sir, This country is, patently, facing the prospect of very serious drought this summer, particularly in the south.

Would it not, therefore, be prudent to ban the use of water-guzzling car washes now rather than wait until half the country is reduced to standpipes?

Yours,
ARTHUR TRICK,
Rosewood House, Pea Lane,
Northchurch,
Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire.
May 26.

From Mr C. D. Mann

Sir, With much stout piping abandoned in Greece, Turkey and elsewhere could it not be collected so that fresh water supplies, originating in Wales and Cumbria, could be delivered (preferably underground) to south-east and south-west England?

Yours etc.,
C. D. MANN,
University of London,
International Hall,
Brunswick Square, WC1.
May 29.

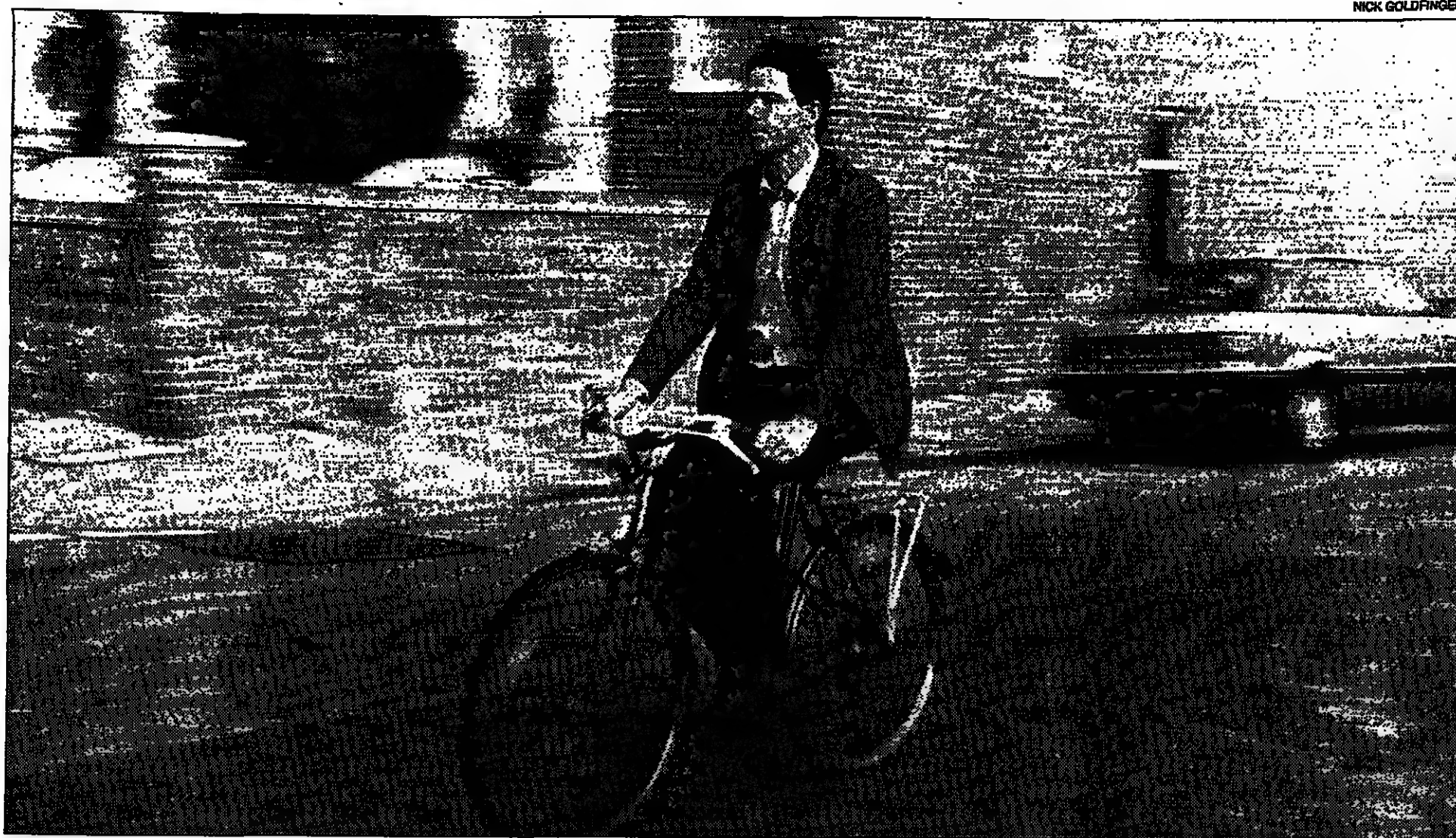
Hastening slowly

From Major-General Lionel Harrod

Sir, Mr Crampton's letter (May 21) reminds me of my recent arrival at Euston some two minutes early. The guard, in announcing this, added that if we wanted full value from our British Rail ticket we might remain on the train for a further two minutes.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. D. HARROD,
The Grange,
Marshall, Dorset.
May 21.

ENVIRONMENT



"I'm going to change the pace, create space for doing things": Jonathan Porritt leaves home early on the morning of his last day at Friends of the Earth, in character to the last

The earth's best-known friend

Perhaps it is a measure of Jonathan Porritt's achievement that as he steps down today as the director of Friends of the Earth (FoE), more questions are being asked about his future than about that of the organization.

In the six hectic and increasingly green years that he has led FoE, Mr Porritt has come to personify the environmental pressure group, a fact of which the tireless campaigners he is leaving behind are only too aware. Indeed, the former English teacher has come to personify the environmental movement in Britain as a whole. Yet when Mr Porritt leaves today there seems no natural place for him to go.

Mr Porritt, who will be 40 in July, is taking a break. He is leaving FoE, he says, "because I have an absolutely firm belief that no one should outstay their tenure of office". He is going to spend more time with his 18-month-old daughter Eleanor and his wife Sarah, who is the National Trust's adviser on the conservation of paintings. "I'm going to change the pace, create more space for doing things that at the moment are just fond memories, like being able to go off for three days' walking without having to book it a year in advance," he says. He has made six television programmes for BBC2 on the environment which will go out from the beginning of July under the title *Where on Earth are we going?* And where on earth is he going after that? He says he does not know.

Yet it is hard to believe he will drop out of sight and so deprive the green cause of the

considerable influence he has built up. Mr Porritt's rise to prominence has involved more than espousing an idea whose time had come. He is fluent, assured, knowledgeable and good on television. He manages the successful politician's trick of securing many things to many people. He appears classless, despite being an Old Etonian, the son of a former Sergeant-Surgeon to the Queen and Governor-General of New Zealand (who in 1924, as Arthur Porritt, captained the New Zealand Olympic team in Paris and was the bronze medalist in the great *Chariots of Fire* race, the 100 metres, behind Harold Abrahams and Jackson Scholz).

He is deeply committed to a radical reordering of life's priorities, yet sounds eminently reasonable. Like no one else, he bridges the gap — narrower than it was, but still wide — between green activists and the general public. He is the outstanding green politician in Britain, and it would seem quite natural now for this former co-chairman of the Green Party to move on to make green politics a real force. But it is unlikely to happen.

Mr Porritt is still a Green Party member (although he has played down his membership at FoE, determined that the group should be seen as non-party-political). He is concerned for the party's welfare, and reluctant to criticize it. Yet he has watched with as much dismay as anyone the way in which, having failed to capitalize on its huge success in the European elections last

Jonathan Porritt has become the acceptable face of green activism, Michael McCarthy writes. Where will he go from Friends of the Earth?

June, the party seems once more marginalized. He is now set apart from many of its members by his increasing political realism, and will not be invited to lead it again. "One has to say that the Green Party seems to attract an awful lot of people who don't like politics, who find something disquieting about being in politics at all. There are strengths in that — you get fewer opportunists — but there are real drawbacks: you have no depth of experience in the political process, you haven't got the staying power, people who are going to dig in for decades."

Mr Porritt is also a convinced democrat, another factor which distances him from the millenarianist tendencies of not a few greens. "I have never subscribed to the idea that some revolution is going to sweep Britain and we will go green overnight. People talk along those lines either out of naivety or what I consider an unacceptable degree of political ruthlessness. They want to see a system collapse so they can build another on its ruins, and that system perhaps would not have some of the democratic safeguards that ours does. I'm not attracted by the idea of a green phoenix arising out of the ashes of our industrial society."

Although, in the jargon, he is a "dark green", believing in an end to traditionally defined economic growth and in a society based on "caring sufficiency, rather than more-is-better", he accepts that change is unsettling and frightening for many people. "To disregard that, to pretend that people are just lazy, selfish, greedy or uncaring and that is why no change is happening, is to make human nature into something so taw-

dry and limited that there is no point in building the alternative dreams," he says.

His experience at FoE and the successful campaigns he supervised to get government and industry to change their ways have convinced Mr Porritt of the necessity of working with the system. "I feel some ambivalence towards the orthodox political process, but it is ultimately government machines that decide what happens. I see myself as a kind of fundamentalist who accepts the need to work from within. Of course, that is the most terrible fudge, but I can't say it any other way."

Cynics suggested that his

'The last thing I want to do is just become a sort of peripatetic green guru'

visit to Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street late last year was aimed at working from even further within by securing some sort of position as a government adviser on the environment. After all, Brice Lalonde, his former opposite number in France, has gone from *Les Amis de la terre* to be the French environment minister. Mr Porritt scorns the suggestion: "It's just laughable." He had been to see the Prime Minister, he says, "out of a sense of curiosity about the degree of sincerity of Mrs Thatcher's greening", and to lobby on specific points. "I could not be more on record than I am about the impossibility of capitalism, as it works today, doing right by the planet or by the people."

The reason is a straight ecological one: to do right by people capitalism destroys the planet. That's a tremendously simplified version of a very long argument, but I believe capitalism can only succeed by destroying the life-support system on which people's needs depend. That's not to say that capitalism is utterly incompatible with thinking green. What we're talking about is oligopolistic capital controlled by extremely reactionary business interests, but it's possible to imagine a world in which a local market is the prime system for providing the goods and services people need.

"But the market as such is not the answer. The future of the British countryside, where farmers may have to change from being food producers to subsidized guardians of the land, is a classic example. The market on its own won't provide for all the conflicting demands in terms of land stewardship. Where is the marketplace for beauty? For recreation? For inspiration?"

Mrs Thatcher, Mr Porritt thinks, "still knows the issues better than any other minister", apart from Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary. But, "she is utterly incapable of finding the political response, because it would cut across what has made her a successful prime minister: non-intervention, reduced public expenditure, question marks over the European and international dimensions."

With the White Paper on the Environment to be published in the autumn, he feels the Government is likely to throw away the opportunity of a generation. "They could have gone for broke, for green growth, new-model capitalism, for a new interpretation of one-nation Toryism with future generations in mind. Chris Patten felt he could get her to do that early on. I think he genuinely wanted her to do that. But what are we left with? It looks like it will be a kind of really token make-do-and-mend job, which is so stupid. They had the opportunity to

strike a new coin, forge a new currency, and they're throwing it away. I think they're just going to produce some vaguely green-tinted rabbits out of the hat which won't mean anything."

Not that he feels the Labour Party is any better. He is disturbed to see that Labour can offer no better target than the Tories for reducing Britain's emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas principally responsible for global warming. "I see it as a worrying touchstone of their green seriousness." He does not believe the command economy only provides environmental solutions any more than the market, pointing at once to the environmental disasters of eastern Europe.

He leaves Friends of the Earth, then, as a natural politician with an enormous personal following looking for a party, a sort of David Owen of the green movement. Under his stewardship FoE has gone from an organization with 10 staff, 15,000 members and an overdraft of £600,000 to a staff of 80, a membership of 190,000 and an annual income of £4.5 million. Even more significant has been the change in the agenda: the ozone layer, global warming, tropical rainforests, appeared nowhere on it when he began.

"They have been marvelous, exhilarating years," he says. And now? "The last thing I want to do is just wander off and simply mine the experience, become a sort of peripatetic green guru who isn't really doing the work for the movement and for the values." But he is as much concerned for the future of FoE and his successor, David Gee, as he is for himself. "There will be a change of pace for FoE. There will be different emphases. But that is a good thing. Every organization should be constantly reviewing its place and reviewing its aims."

You sound like a corporate strategist, I said. Mr Porritt burst out laughing. "I've picked up a lot in the last few years," he said, "from some very funny places."

Who killed Cock Robin?

An Italian, probably. It's open season on birds again all over Italy. Do the conservationists stand a chance?

At this time of year, the hills above the straits between Sicily and the Italian mainland are alive with the sound of gunfire. Sometimes it is rare migrating hawks that are in the sights of the hunters' guns, sometimes it is game wardens.

The annual war between hunters and conservationists at this point, where the migration route between Africa and Europe narrows to a few miles, is more intense this year than ever before. On Sunday, in Calabria, a car carrying six forest guards was attacked by poachers using a sawn-off shot-gun.

A week earlier, Fulvio Zavoli, another forest guard, had been shot in the chest, neck and arms at the same spot. He was seriously injured, and is still in hospital. Attacks have also been made on volunteers from the Italian League for Bird Protection, who camp out on the hillsides in spite of the increasing dangers, to raise the alarm if hunters attack honey buzzards, ospreys, storks and other protected species.

This year, more is at stake than the lives of the birds on the wing. On Sunday, Italy holds a national referendum over its hunting laws, probably the most permissive and weakly enforced in Europe. Conservation groups all over Europe, including Britain, are closely involved in the dispute, because many birds which breed in north Europe use Italy as a land-bridge across the Mediterranean and from their winter territories. Italy was recently found guilty by the European Court of being in breach of the EC directive on wildlife protection.

Hunters' organizations have called for Italy's 46 million voters to boycott the referendum, ensuring that all those who go to the poll on Sunday will be marked out as supporters of reform. Alistair Gammell, head of the international department of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says the attacks in Calabria "are a clear attempt at intimidation in the days before the referendum". Hunting for sport and for the pot is an ingrained part of Italian country life, with none of the overtones of privilege that it has here, and none of the related traditions of conservation. Hunting associations claim that as many as 1.5 million Italians hunt with the gun. In the south, it is seen as a test of masculine prowess to bring down a big hawk in early summer, when they are moving north.

Hundreds of miles further



Late feathered friend: another one for the Italian pot

north, in the valleys at the foot of the Alps which channel birds on their autumn migrations through the Alpine passes, hunters use illegal nets, spring-snare and bird-time to capture small birds such as robins and finches, some protected, some not, quite indiscriminately. In numbers estimated in tens of millions a year, they are destined to end up in patés and rich sauces with *polemia*.

Hunting on such an enormous scale inevitably involves major commercial interests. But the main obstacles to reform are rural traditions, formed when the countryside was less under threat, and reinforced today by nostalgia.

"My family is from the countryside near Rome, and I started shooting with my father and grandfather when I was still a boy," says Federico Polidori, a craftsman who makes custom luggage in central Rome. "I do not believe game shooting is responsible for the decline in wildlife. It is all the building and industry which has made the country around Rome uninhabitable for animals."

Signor Polidori agrees that Italian hunters have a bad reputation, but distinguishes between responsible countrymen shooting over their own land, usually with a trained hunting dog, and "urban louts who go hunting for the pleasure of blasting away at anything".

The main focus of Sunday's referendum will be a law which gives hunters of the second variety freedom to range almost wherever they like. "The contrast between our own controls on hunting and the Italian situation is extreme," says Mr Gammell. "In Britain, you may shoot only on land you own, or with the owner's permission. In Italy, a gun is a passport which gives you the right to go almost anywhere. It's crazy — if you are birdwatching with a pair of binoculars, an owner can sling you off his land, but if you take a gun along, there is nothing he can do."

If the referendum succeeds, the hunting law will automatically be repealed. It will then be for Italy's precariously-balanced coalition government to frame new legislation. But it will take more than a law passed far away in Rome to persuade the trigger-happy hunters of Calabria that they do not have a God-given right to take their toll on the storks and the great birds of prey which pass by on their way to the rest of Europe.

GEORGE HILL
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The Church on the green

IN SOME parts of the world, a missionary still takes his life in his hands. Sean McDonagh, a member of the Colombian Fathers who has worked for many years with tribal peoples on the island of Mindanao, in the Philippines, has lost two colleagues in terrorist attacks in the past two years. Both murdered priests had agreed to expose the activities of logging companies illegally destroying the island's rainforests and threatening the survival of the people who inhabit them.

A perspective like this gives Father McDonagh's concern over green issues a sharp edge. In a new book, *The Greening of the Church*, published today (Geoffrey Chapman, £7.95), he writes with urgency and anger about threats to the world environment, using his experiences with the T'boli tribe in Mindanao to fuel an attack on the priorities of the Catholic Church. What he has seen has left him disillusioned with the natural family planning methods recommended by his Church.

His book appears in association with a new campaign, also called *Greening the Church*, launched by the interdenominational body, Christian Ecology Link, to raise Christian awareness of environmental problems. In the trend for churches to move into the green arena, Father

A priest from the Pacific rainforests challenges Catholic tradition

McDonagh readily concedes that his own church has not been among the pathfinders.

"I accept that Catholics, and especially the leadership within the Church, have arrived at this issue a little breathless and a little late," he says. "Some Christian thinking about the relationship between man and the natural world has seen the world as given to man to exploit for his own ends. I have tried to show that there is also a tradition, which has sometimes been lost sight of, emphasizing stewardship and respect."

He sees international debt as a trap that forces Third World nations to impose crippling distortions on their own economies. "The debt can only be paid by taking food out of the mouths of the poor, especially women and children, and by irreversibly damaging the environment," he says. "The effort to repay can end up playing into the hands of the torturers and the death squads."

He speaks equally strongly about the problem of popula-

tion, drawing on his own experience with a community which at present rates of growth will double in just over 15 years. "I don't want to separate population from the problems of debt and a fair distribution of world resources," he says. "In the past the population issue was seen in relation to the selfishness of limiting the size of one's family out of greed for material affluence. Now we have to consider it in the light of exponential population growth and the limited carrying capacity of the land."

The mission on Mindanao runs a programme of advice in child care and the natural methods of family planning sanctioned by the Catholic Church. But in eight years, not a single family, even those in daily contact with the sister-nurse, has been able to apply these methods successfully. Father McDonagh says: "My involvement with natural methods has made me doubt whether they are sufficiently wide and diverse to meet the needs of every situation."

He is convinced that many priests privately share his views. "I do not feel at all an isolated figure over this," he says. "I think my views are very widely shared, particularly by people working on the ground like myself."

GEORGE HILL

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MEET SOMEONE THROUGH THE TIMES

John Hill 1/50

A voice from far frontiers

Nadine Gordimer is turning to television to denounce her homeland, Matthew Parris reports

Women can be so final. I did not dare say to her that I had seen that sharp glance before. It was the glance with which a woman tells you she is closing a discussion. With a brisk and very feminine tug, she draws the curtains on thoughts and memories she will not entertain.

But the comparison with Mrs Thatcher might not have pleased Nadine Gordimer, might not have been the best way to get our chat off to a good start.

She is in London to make the keynote address at the presentation of the PEN awards, for International Writers' Day, tomorrow. It gives us the chance to talk to her about the eight-part BBC television series, *Frontiers*, to be screened starting next week, in which eight individuals explore political frontiers in which they have a special interest. For the series, Nadine Gordimer crosses the border from her native South Africa into Mozambique, to revisit Maputo. She had not been there for 20 years. Long before even that, though, she had spent a honeymoon in the city which (then under Portuguese rule) was called Lourenço Marques.

"Isn't it a shame," I had asked, "for a rather personal writer like you, that this visit is so uncompromisingly angled on the history and politics of what South Africa has done to another African country. Surely you have more private memories of the place? Was there no fun, no gaiety to look back on? It was your honeymoon."

"Lourenço Marques was a sleazy colonial capital," she said. "Anyway, Matthew," and she gave me that sharp glance, "you forget, that this was my first honeymoon. When I look back, it seems to be someone else, not me. Another story. And that was that. One might as well have asked Mrs Thatcher about her mother."

That honeymoon had taken place in 1949, the year I was born in South Africa. I first met Nadine Gordimer 17 years later. By then she was a famously brave opponent of apartheid and already a well-known writer. She had come to talk to my school, Waterford School, in Mbabane, Swaziland.

Having just become head boy, it was I who was asked to make a speech of thanks. Still on course to be Prime Minister at the time, I saw the speech as my great moment. My brother says I used the word "ray" twice. I still cringe at the recollection.

Perhaps Nadine Gordimer could not remember, or perhaps she was being kind, but when I saw her this week — for

the first time since then — she did not mention the speech, but smiled at the change in me. "We grow older," she said.

I dare say I have. But she hardly seems to. The same composure, the same certainty, the same inner nervousness which polishes every edge, the same grip, as struck me so clearly those 23 years ago. She has a bird-like quality. It does not age.

I told her that I found her section of the book *Frontiers* (which the BBC has published to accompany the television series) disappointing. For an author of her stature, I said (feeling braver than when facing her across the school hall) it seemed a misuse of her talent to engage in what seemed almost a TV-pamphleteering exercise against South African policy in "destabilizing" Mozambique.

What I meant (but did not say) was that being a great novelist does not make you an historian or an expert on international relations; and perhaps Gordimer had allowed a television crew to drag her into an area and medium where she had no right to be: simply so they could attach a famous name to a series otherwise in danger of sounding dry.

Well, whether the series makes a useful or engaging contribution to public understanding, we shall judge when we see it. And the legitimacy of lending literary glamour to opinions for which artistic genius is no qualification, remains (to me) doubtful. But any thought that Gordimer is being "used" was dispelled by her response. By the end of our talk I began to believe that it was she who had persuaded the BBC to make the series. She is incensed by what she sees as South Africa's virtual destruction of the Mozambique economy, and the suffering this has brought.

She said: "Television is not my medium." She distrusted television. She was "used to the freedom of fiction". People often asked her to comment on South African politics, but, "I won't write predictions. It's not my milieu at all". Nevertheless, "my indignation... my distress... anger at — what my country is doing" had driven her to raise these outrages which had been "swept under the carpet". "Unfortunately," she added, television has "a power to reach people." And she would use it. I abandoned any thought that Gordimer was anybody's mouthpiece.

But how much did she really know about it? There is, after all, an awkwardness (let us put it tactfully) about this particular (frontier), this 11,000-volt electrified fence, that separates South Africa from



Passionate certainty: but Nadine Gordimer is nobody's mouthpiece

Mozambique; and it is an awkwardness — never stated — which Gordimer's presentation dodges by going straight onto the offensive, with passion, but not without calculation.

The fence is to keep economic refugees from Mozambique out. President Chissano's people are trying to leave, choosing the oppression that Gordimer (and I) hate, as preferable. She resolves this awkwardness by blaming the collapse of Mozambique's economy almost entirely on South Africa. Only one sentence in the book mentions the late President Machel's wreckage of his own country's economy.

And how about the vicious persecution by Machel's Frelimo party of the Catholic church (now, thankfully, over)? Apparently the series mentions this regrettably, but moves on. Was the success of the Renamo rebels, I asked Gordimer, wholly due to their South African backers? Surely we liberals were more accustomed to argue — we did in Vietnam and do within South Africa — that successful terrorism cannot be blamed entirely on external aid, but implies a measure of support among the host population?

"I'm not a liberal: I'm a radical," she said. And no, it was all South Africa's doing. At the beginning, Machel's "mistakes", the religious persecution, and the "crisis of expectation" of the peasants, had helped Renamo. But today South Africa alone was to blame. She went on to argue

the scale and nature of South African support. She claims this continues, though South Africa denies it. She argued this with skill, and with great and detailed historical knowledge. Gordimer knows her subject, and she really believes it.

But I remained doubtful. She told me about a high-ranking Renamo official who had "turned" against the movement, horrified by its brutality. He felt, she said, "complete revulsion against anything he had done".

I decided to be brave. "As you watch the power of the white man to abuse his fellow African, diminish," I ventured, "and the power of the black man to abuse his fellow African, increase, do you think you may ever come to feel a complete revulsion against everything you've done?"

She paused. "My dear," she said, "it's perfectly possible. Very often we support change, and then are swept away by the change. I think that..." (she paused again), "you just make your own response to your own generation. A response adequate to your time."

That did not mean, she said, that one was silent about the evils done by blacks to blacks. She started to give examples — "backslapping" was a terrible thing. "But" Mandela was against it. After this the "buts" began to flow thick and fast. The killings in Natal were terrible, "but" — then she explained the provocation. After majority rule there was

"a risk that something may go wrong, but...". I wished she had stopped before the "buts". When condemning white wrongdoing there were no buts.

Frontiers, she says, are not just fences. They are also "set up in a time when I was a child, distrust of white for black".

In her novel, *The Burger's Daughter*, occurs one of the finest sustained passages in expressionist literature I have ever read. A drunk black man is whipping a donkey, almost to death. Through the character of a white woman, Gordimer expresses her own mental anguish as her white guilt wrestles with her desire to hate this man.

She speaks of *Frontiers*. Yes indeed. I wonder whether there is not another mental frontier that white liberals (sorry, radicals) may be facing quite soon, in South Africa.

Is Yeltsin strong enough to quit?



BARBARA AMEL

IN BORIS Yeltsin's autobiography, *Against the Grain*, he tells the story of his journey around the USSR during his summer holidays from the Sverdlovsk Polytechnic in the late 1940s. Whenever the police stopped him, Mr Yeltsin would claim to be visiting his grandmother in a nearby town. "In which street does she live?" they would ask. "Since I knew that every Soviet town has a Lenin Street," Mr Yeltsin writes, "I was never wrong in giving that as my grandmother's address." Well, yes. When I met Mr Yeltsin last March I was prepared for the sort of street-shrewdness such an anecdote suggests. One was also prepared for bluster and bluff, a man straight from the great Russian tradition of Gogol's *Pot of the Lie*. As it was, his control and precision in framing his thoughts came as a surprise to me. Perhaps I was in awe of his capacity to down amounts of alcohol while we chatted that would have caused a melt-down in me. Still, all that apart, Mr Yeltsin has won the presidency of the Russian Federation, just as he predicted last March. What does this mean for the Soviet Union?

There are some, such as my friend Andrei Navrozov, who are in a state of utter gloom over the West's attitude to the USSR. There is, writes Mr Navrozov morosely from Cambridge, "a vacuum of debate" over the question of the Soviet Union's capabilities or intentions. We "know nothing about the historical circumstances of the transfer of power" which took place in the last years of Brezhnev's life. Nor do we seem inclined to analytical thought on the subject. "When was the last time you saw a single column inch devoted to Soviet strength rather than Soviet weakness?" Mr Navrozov asks.

Many of us steer a middle path between this view and, say, the girlish enthusiasms of Mrs Thatcher for the Soviet Union's suddenly new star. We are reasonably certain that, strategically, Mr Gorbachev never intended to jettison eastern Europe, re-militarise Germany and flirt with a multiparty system. All the same, Mr Gorbachev's efforts in patching up the Soviet Empire to make it a richer and more tasty plum to rule has had unintended consequences, and most of those unintended consequences are, quite simply, good for the West.

Of course, both Mr Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin are, in one sense, simply apparatchiks, party members out of the same hatch. But the mere fact that somebody came through the same system does not determine what he will be like. Put a sufficient number of people through the same school and they can be very different indeed. The French Revolution, after all, was fuelled by many a red duke. Mr Yeltsin may be a very different animal to his old friend Mr Gorbachev. As far as one can see, Mr Gorbachev has been intent upon setting up a personal fiefdom, parallel to the communist party. Just as citizen Bonaparte became the Emperor Napoleon so Comrade Gorbachev seems well on his way to becoming Tsar Mikhail. On the other

hand, when we talked, Mr Yeltsin claimed that he was really a social democrat. "You are the first person I have told this to," he said, benevolently. Then he affirmed that in the event of his party gaining power, he would grant all the republics their independence and work for a multiparty democracy.

Mr Yeltsin's claim to be the voice of Russians in the Soviet Union is well known. "Because of imperial nationalist policies," he told me, "Russians find themselves, up to 40 per cent of the population, in republics where decisions facing their lives are taken in languages that are not their own. The Russian longs to see an independent Russia, he longs for a national, cultural and economic renaissance in Russia. He longs not

only for the autonomy of the other nationalities, but also to have his own independent economic region of Russia."

Nationalism, like love, knows no logic. But Mr Yeltsin's nationalism has both passion and economic logic as its basis. He believes the best economic deal for Russians is to cut Empire and run. As for the passion, well, it was that small blue flame one could see burning in the man that caused me to compare Mr Yeltsin with Tolstoy's General Kutosov, who actually managed to defeat Napoleon. As Tolstoy describes it, he does so even though Napoleon is the more brilliant strategist and Kutosov is very much the worse for drink and wear. The power is in Kutosov's oneness with the land and the people, and the dark mystery of their pain. This "blood consciousness" may be Mr Yeltsin's strength.

Mr Yeltsin's strength may also be his willingness to risk jettisoning centralized power. Can anything be more ludicrous than the current Soviet attempt centrally to plan free enterprise? There can be no mystery over its failure.

In the end, one feels Mr Yeltsin could only win credibility by announcing that he was turning himself into a caretaker government for the Russian Federation he now runs. Such a declaration actually is needed from both Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gorbachev. The Soviet people ought to have a definite announcement that all political parties can freely form and that during the next year or so, as they develop, the remnants of the old regime will remain simply to mind the house.

When all is said and done, the only honest communist — the only one who has really learned the lessons of the past — is the communist who believes that he is not fit to govern. He understands that he can stand at his post only until the people are able to elect someone else. One could never have de-Hitlerized Nazism by announcing that Auschwitz was a mistake. One cannot sanitize Marxist-Leninism by apologizing for the Gulag and putting a rose next to the small party pin in the lapel. Forty million people were murdered in the name of that emblem and no matter what the honesty and integrity of an individual party member might be, it will take more than lyrical talk about the Russian soul to wipe that away. Will Mr Yeltsin take power, and then head the resignation list?

THE ONLY honest communist is the one who believes he is not fit to govern

A woman on the chain gang

The building industry wants women to don hard hats and head for construction sites — but what is it really like?

I WAS a chainboy on the National Gallery site in London's heart, working on the construction of the new Sainsbury Wing. Part of that magnificent edifice, or monstrous carbuncle, as one famous critic would have it, has my mark: (one is underneath the stone 20 metres above Trafalgar Square — a yellow-sprayed gridline check).

This week's call by the Construction Industry Training Board for a greater female presence amid the concrete, steel and assorted building rubble may be met with scepticism — both from likely candidates and from those entrenched males dominating the scene.

Perhaps I can offer some insight to those women considering such a move. Many will be graduates, and so will go in at a different level to mine. But why not women as labourers and other non-management roles — common in other western countries, yet not here?

Would-be candidates should pick the season carefully. Outdoors work is all very well when the sun is shining. But it is hardly a job bonus to be scrambling up three storeys of ladders in pouring rain, lugging a tripod and heavy steel theodolite with only the ubiquitous donkey jacket between you and a force-nine gale. Nevertheless,

there I was, for five months of my working life, surrounded by about 150 men. Some may consider that a job bonus — I did not. The surprise was that most of them accepted me as a colleague (albeit, a junior one) and largely forgot that I was a woman.

There is even a photograph of me, lined up with other "members of the management team" employed by Sir Robert McAlpine Construction Management, taken for a progress report released to the press on our "topping out" day.

Why "chainboy" then? I was McAlpine's first chainman (an assistant to the engineers) of the opposite sex. The company computer would not accept such a radical departure. Despite repeated attempts by our (non-sexist) office manager to have the computer swallow "chainperson" as a job description, it kept paying me as a "chainman". In fact, my coveted invitation to the official ceremony was even addressed from head office, to: Mr B. Phelan.

At that stage, I was the only woman working daily on site.

I was, perhaps, something of a novelty in the first week, but they soon became so accustomed to seeing me clambering all over the scaffolding, following the engineers, that I became just another worker. True, there were other women, such as the planning engineer and one of the design team architects, but their visits on site were infrequent and much too formal to attract comments from the boys.

Contrary to warnings delivered by friends, I was not harassed at work by chauvinists, nor subject to leering catcalling from other workers. In fact, it got to the point where, turning the whole stereotype on its head, I was beginning to doubt my own attractiveness when I could not even raise one comment out of 150.

The senior project engineer was brave to give me the job against all logical argument: I had no engineering experience, could not read a technical drawing and had never climbed anything higher than a tree. "You'll pick it up — it's all on-the-job training." He proved correct. But his warning was succinct, and fair if

my presence on the site became a distraction, I would be queuing at the Job Centre.

There were isolated incidents, but they were the exception rather than the norm. Such as the time when a new team of steel erectors came on site. One of my responsibilities was to count the erections on site — I just got it. Their first sighting of me, climbing up the ladder to eye level with where they were working, drew whistles, cheers and cries of "get 'em out". They were quickly reprimanded by their supervisor who told them that not only was I to be respected as a female on site, but that I was also part of the management team, whose job it was to make sure they did theirs, and to report any problems. Instant respect.

I got on well with the workers on site, and knew most by name. Having an Australian sense of humour helped. None resented my presence. Instruction came from my colleagues, in particular my senior site engineer, who made sure that I pulled my weight, and learnt fast.

I enjoyed the challenge and the work — I can still tell a 16mm rebar from a 32mm, a header from a stretcher — and I seem to have lost my fear of heights.

BERNARDINE PHELAN

Graham Rock, driver of the *Times* Mercedes 300 SE in the London to Peking Motoring Challenge, sums up 9,330 miles — and 52 days — of hard driving

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ARTS

FINE ART

Architectural straws in the wind

The 44th Venice Biennale: John Russell Taylor looks for indications of new trends in contemporary art, while Adrian Dannatt joins the media and socialites in attendance

Trend-spotting assumes the status of an international sport at the Venice Biennale, which has just opened for the 44th time in the Giardini di Castello and various other locations around Venice, and will continue until September 30.

The trouble with the search for trends, equally interesting to critics desperate for some way to make sense of so much miscellaneous and contradictory evidence, and to the dealers and curators wondering wildly what bandwagon they should be prepared to leap on next, is that trends are finally very much in the eye of the beholder. Given that you have laid out before you, just in the official section, the work of more than a hundred artists selected by some 47 countries, it is inevitable that connections can be seen.

Brood long enough about a real or fancied connection, and it becomes a trend. And of course, there is also the possibility that these trends may be self-fulfilling prophecies, in that once they have been defined, other artists in other places may decide to follow suit.

All the same, there do seem to be real straws in the wind, techniques, subjects or materials which suddenly begin to look good in many very different circumstances. This time, architecture seems to be in vogue, as a metaphor, a dream or a promise. In pavilion after pavilion are architectural projects, records of architecture, sculptures and paintings which use architecture as a metaphor or a means of unlocking the artist's fantasies.

Even the most seemingly down-to-earth, the French pavilion, which contains projects by three French architects in their forties for replacing the building in which they show, takes off into Utopian fantasy at every turn. Obviously it is offensive to French cultural chauvinism that not only is the French pavilion the only permanent national pavilion which still belongs to the Commune of Venice, but it is not even designed by a French architect. Whether the odd notions of Christian de Portzamparc or Philippe Starck offer a viable alternative is doubtful, but all of Jean Nouvel's evolving concepts seem eminently reasonable. He also comes up with one of the most striking pieces of site-specific art in the whole Biennale: a fissure opened in the back wall of the pavilion to allow a breath-taking glimpse of leaves and sky beyond.

Painting has yet to make a significant comeback at the Biennale, largely because sculpture is better value in terms of space-usage, and more immediately dramatic in its impact than rows of paintings on the walls. This year the British pavilion again features sculpture, where most of Britain's major prizes have been gained, with a splendid selection of new work by Anish Kapoor. He has now moved excitingly on from coating his shapes, whether of domes and cones or of natural-looking rocks, with vibrantly coloured powder pigment, and instead is hollowing out his rocks and colouring them almost imperceptibly on the inside. Any exploring finger comes away tinted midnight-blue. The work fits the setting immaculately, as always with the British entry in

Venice. It is extraordinary, and wonderful, that a country which treats its own arts at home so shabbily manages consistently to have the best turned-out representation in the whole Biennale.

The only competitor for the title of best-dressed pavilion is the United States. This time it has been turned over completely to the conceptual artist Jenny Holzer, who has paved the floors with black and red marble, each stone inscribed with one of her pronouncements of the trinitic, and has run her computerized message boards over several of the internal walls to assure us that "Torture is Barbarous", "Hiding Your Motives is Despicable" and other dazzling glimpses of the obvious. But "dezzing" is the operative word: whatever Holzer's claims as a philosopher, she

undoubtedly has a kind of genius in the setting-up of light shows.

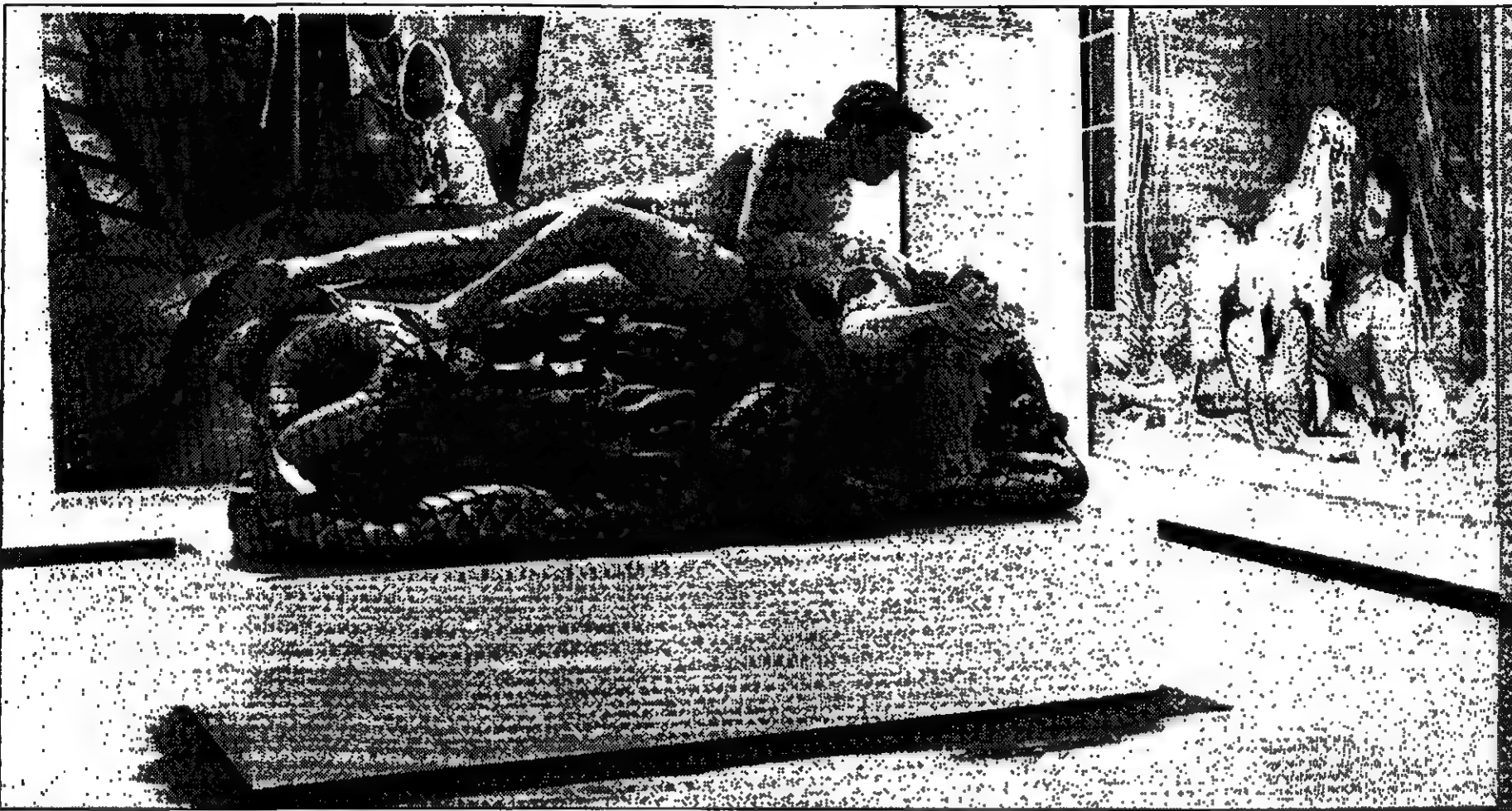
A lot of attention is turned this year on the contributions from Eastern Europe. In the central pavilion's "Ambiente Berlin" show, it is quite impossible to guess without looking up the details which artists are from East and which from West. I thought that the most interesting was Hans Ticha, who does slightly Deo-looking paintings of tubular figures making subtly violent gestures towards one another. He could be from anywhere or nowhere, but proves to come from the East. The East German pavilion contains two painters, Hubertus Giebe and Günter Rieger: both Neo-Expressionists, both heavily influenced by Kokoschka's later manner, at once violent and fidgety.

The Hungarian Laszlo Feher, with his chic Post-Modern canvases showing spectral characters in portentous yellow-and-black landscapes and his outline sculptures, belongs entirely to the world of David Salle and could move straight into any advanced Western gallery tomorrow. Josef Szajna, who has filled the Polish pavilion with heaps of fake mud, dismembered bodies and boards covered with discarded shoes, needs all our awareness that he is a survivor of Auschwitz to convince us that this is not merely Polish Angst-installation Mark 1, or a setting (he is also a stage designer) for *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Concern for the Third World brings into the Biennale for the first time Nigeria and Zimbabwe, showing respectable if not very original sculpture. Australia

proudly unveils its first two Aboriginal artists in Venice, thereby showing that native origins do not provide any inoculation from the power of kitsch.

But then, speaking of kitsch, the competition is closely run between the Spanish pavilion's mountains of paper flowers and wedding spangles, and Jeff Koons's installation in the Aperto, which is made up of a luridly coloured over-life-size sculpture of himself and his current lady-friend embracing nude, surrounded by enormous soft-core photographic blow-ups of the same scene. If you are retrograde enough actually to want the lofty and severe in the Biennale, you can find something to your taste. But also be prepared for some shocks, salutary and otherwise, to the system.

Information on travel to Italy and to Venice for the Biennale can be obtained from the Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes Street, London W1 (071-408 1254).



Jeff Koons's "luridly coloured over-life-size sculpture of himself and his current lady-friend embracing nude, surrounded by photographic blow-ups of the same scene"

What news on the Rialto, darling?

If proof were needed of the new-found glamour of the international contemporary art world, the Venice Biennale provides it with a vengeance. Just a few weeks after Cannes, this year's 44th Biennale proved how feeble the film industry is by comparison when it comes to fielding funds and photogenic faces. If today's hip young artists all aspire to the condition of film stars, the rewards are probably all that much greater than in the financially-straitened movie market.

The Biennale was officially opened last Sunday, by which time everyone in the art world had already long since left, jetting back to Dallas, Tokyo or even London, abandoning the show to tourists, amateur art-lovers and other such losers. Although it runs until the end of September, the Biennale exists only for three dense days of social activity. Indeed the whole event is an elaborate excuse for transcontinental networking and the intellectual or occasionally bodily mingling of the hard-core Conceptual posse.

Thousands of critics, curators, gallery owners and collectors gather, the further to promote the mysteries of their trade, occasionally interrupted by the more successful artists, who are tolerated solely on the basis of star rating.

As the best of these critics and indeed creators are all what are termed in America "Trust-Fund Babies", there is no shortage of delicious dinners, lunches and

long drinks to confirm their glory.

People are judged by where they eat and stay, the choicest of New York curators, such as the legendary Christian Leigh, staying simultaneously at two hotels, the Gritti and Danieli. Every evening, Harry's Bar is packed with variations on the same modish couple deep in Bellini and auction information.

The dress code for men is fat, blue-chinned and white-suited, the Havana cigar and horn-rimmed spectacles optional. The women are as ice-thin as the males are broad and favour the Art-world all-black ensemble, ideally with a Japanese name attached, ending in O.

The media swamp threatens to flood La Serenissima, as people from each other up like capucino. Television crews starved of good sound-bites are reduced to filming one fat man in Raybans interviewing another one about the appalling ubiquity of television crews.

Critics are divided into two strict camps. There are the old chaps who once drank kir when they see it (it looks like oil paint on canvas), and there are ferocious young groovers who are firmly uninterested in paintings and swear allegiance to ready-made objects, publicity (self and other), and "art" as uncontainable information event.

Members of the first group sit around in bemusement, bemoaning everything they see, claiming

only to have enjoyed some right-fellably obscure figurative painter in the Romanian pavilion. They exclaim: "The only art to be seen in Venice is in the churches."

Members of the second group will indiscriminately adore anything intellectual, electronic, or which emulates advertising, provided that it has already been given the seal of approval of a high price or written up in the art magazines. Their standard line on everything is "Hmph!", as they adjust their shades and waddle onwards.

Jeff Koons and Gran Fury were the perfect examples in Venice this year of the rift between the old and new art worlds. Koons, the ultimate self-publicist, has cast himself in a sex-film, *Made in Heaven*, co-starring La Ciociolina, Italy's porn-star MP.

His space at the Aperto, the young artists' section, was taken up with a giant ceramic sculpture of the two of them, naked and deeply embracing. Round the sides were huge images of them in even more compromising positions, with Ciociolina's "best features" very much in evidence.

Not surprisingly, the Italian media went crazy. Koons gave impromptu press conferences at every opportunity, kissing his loved one to a constant strobe of photographers' flashguns.

A bedraggled team of journalists even turned out in St Mark's, on the basis of a rumour that the pair were to be married in the cathedral. One French critic objected,

with typical Gallic candour: "This Koons is not a very passionate artist; it is a very limp piece of work."

But if Koons's sculpture did indeed fall a bit flat, there was quite the opposite problem with Gran Fury, the AIDS activist art group from America. Their posters denouncing Catholic laws against safe sex featured a smiling Pope offset by another upstanding member, an even more prominent male figure.

The director of the Biennale, Dottore Carandente, swore he would resign if such blasphemy were permitted, while Gran Fury gathered a petition claiming the rest of the Aperto would pull out if they were censored. In the end, Gran Fury went up, in every sense, Carandente averted his eyes and the avant-garde won one more moral victory.

Such actions, and most of the art, only really serve as conversation-fodder for the succession of parties, such as the superb event hosted by the British Council at a palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal, complete with real candlelight and tipsy staff.

Of course, if you were not at the dinner for Jenny Holzer or drinks for Anish Kapoor, if you failed to be photographed with Jeff Koons and made not one later date for lunch in Manhattan, then you might just as well go now to the Biennale. There's always the art to be looked at, for those without anything better to do.

ADRIAN DANNATT

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Finding a map-reference for Ruggles

Our picture of the geography of American music, in terms of performances here and the availability of records, is still misrepresentative. Much of the space is taken up by Steve Reich, John Adams, Philip Glass and others who have been called "minimalists", and there are decent territories staked out for the three big Cs among living composers — Copland, Carter and Cage — all of whom will be featured at this month's festivals: Copland and Carter at Aldeburgh, Carter and Cage at the Almeida. Morton Feldman, another Almeida regular, has his featureless, calm place on the map, and there is a busy little area devoted to Milton Babbitt, but among composers of earlier generations, only Ives features.

Maybe Michael Tilson Thomas will be able to change that during his conductorship of the London Symphony Orchestra. This week, in a brilliant solution to the problem of what to programme with Mahler's Second Symphony, he offered three pieces by Carl Ruggles (1876-1971), whose long life stretched from the time of Mahler almost to yesterday, as our dashing conductor reminded us

with his charming references before the concert to "Mr Ruggles". What he told us about Mr Ruggles was fascinating, namely, that he composed every day, even though out of all this material there emerged only nine published works lasting altogether for no more than an hour. The achieved pieces, therefore, can be understood as exceptional moments in a lifelong composition. They have an unusual quality of climax and intensity.

For instance, *Organum*, which was Tilson Thomas's selection from the pieces for large orchestra, pitches into a characteristic atmosphere of upward-striving dissonant polyphony such as might introduce the development section in a sonata-style work, while *Angels*, which was played before, has a flaming stillness and distance suggestive of the coda after a long struggle. All of Ruggles is this: the combat or the repose. Except in *Sun-treader*, Ruggles's single large-scale work, there is no introduction, no exposition, no transition, but only these moments of sudden clarity.

Angels, scored for muted trumpets and trombones, was too celestially far away in the Barbican

Hall acoustic, but *Organum* made a powerful impression: composed in 1944-7, it is six minutes of challenge, based on the rising gesture with which it begins and, differently, concludes. Perhaps that is where this Ruggles bouquet should have ended, but instead Tilson Thomas went on to give us what appeared in the programme as "Exultation", (American Grove has "Exaltation", which seems more fitting), a hymn tune the composer wrote in 1958 — after more than a decade of silence following *Organum* — as a memorial to his wife.

Hearing this homophonic piece several times — played by an organist or a brass group, hummed and sung as "O God, our help in ages past" by the London Symphony Chorus — brought its irregular harmonies into prominence, as Tilson Thomas seemed to be intending with his changing balance of the choir. But still the impression was left that the product of the strife of *Organum* was a more or less diatonic hymn tune, whereas "Exultation" (or whatever) is surely to be interpreted not as a goal but rather as an acknowledgement of the importance New England hymnody

had to the greater works before, not least to *Angels*, where the brass chant harmonies too strange for merely human voices.

Strange harmonies there are too in Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony, but they were projected confidently over a wide dynamic range, in a hall which is not kind to choirs. There was no sag, either, in the orchestral contribution. In the finale Tilson Thomas used the whole width and depth of the off-stage area to dramatize the calls and marches coming from the distance, while events on the platform were incisive and loud.

So had they been in earlier movements. Occasionally, the tempo markings were manipulated in the interests of immediacy; sometimes there was a distinctly American sound to the orchestra (more, indeed, than in the Ruggles), with big band brass and Hollywood harps and strings; and some fierce gestures risked vulgarity: the appalling chords that arrive to fill the space in the recapitulation of the opening bars, or the final launching of the third movement. However, the accumulating impression was fresh, free and vigorous.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

CRITICS' CHOICE FINE ART AUCTIONS

ART EXHIBITIONS

HUMAN VIEW: Sickert painted pictures of people throughout his life, though seldom formal portraits. This collection shows his brilliance, even when, as latterly, he was working from newspaper photographs.

Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath (0225 481111). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-5pm, until June 30.

MYTHMAKER: Madame Yevonde, despite sounding like a fortune-teller, was one of the most innovative British photographers, especially in colour, between the wars. In need of money.

Royal Photographic Society, Milson Street, Bath (0225 462841). Daily, 9.30am-5.30pm, until July 8.

BEST OF ENEMIES: Whistler even wrote the book, *The Gentle Art of Making Enemies*, first published in 1890. A celebration of Whistler, his friends and his enemies, marks the centenary.

Michael Parkin Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (071-255 8144). Daily, 9.30am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until June 22.

FROM NOTHING: Australian Tim Maguire specializes in paintings which hover on the borderline of abstraction but still tease you towards recognition. His new show, *Ex Nihilo*, is haunting.

Flaxman Gallery, 3 Lever Street, London EC1 (071-253 9515). Wed-Sun, 11am-6pm, until June 17.

WOODCUTTERS: David Jones and Eric Gill, devout but different, worked side-by-side on drawings and wood-engravings in the 1920s. Compare and contrast.

Austin/Deasmond, 15A Bloomsbury Square, Fied Bull Yard, London WC1 (071-242 4443). Mon-Fri, 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat, 10.30am-2.30pm, until June 21.

DECORATOR: Duncan Grant, leading light of the Bloomsbury painters, often seems best when least on his painterly dignity: the incidental designs are enchanting.

Bloomsbury Workshop, 12 Gales Place, London WC1 (071-405 0832). Daily, 10am-5.30pm, until June 22.

SAVING SCRAP: Amazing what you can do with odds and ends of scrap metal, abandoned machinery and general junk. Caribbean sculptor Francisco Cabral brings off the transformation into art every time.

Concorde Gallery, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-838 4141, ex 218). Daily, midday-7.30pm, until July 8.

RODIN'S HEIR: Robert Wilkoff is less well known than Mollo or Bourdelle, but equally notable in the generation of French sculptors following Rodin (who discovered him). Monumental figures, sensuous drawings.

Bruton Gallery, Bruton, Somerset (0749 812205). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, until June 16.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

AUCTIONS, SALES

LOVERS: Sir William Orpen's full-size portrait of Mrs Evelyn St George, his six-foot American socialite lover, is the highlight of this sale. Her influential connections helped make his name as a fashionable portrait painter, and their friendship turned into a seven-year love affair. Mrs St George died in 1935, leaving this striking picture to be sold by her grandson (£100,000-£150,000). Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, London, SW1 (071-839 9060). Viewing: Sun, 2pm-6pm. Mon-Tues, 9am-4.30pm, Wed, 9am-4pm. Sale: Thurs, 2pm.

CHILDREN'S ART: Ralph Steadman's original drawings for *Save the Children* 1980-87, sold by him in aid of the current Ethiopian appeal (ests £200-£3,000 each). Plus work by Beatrice Potter, Kay Nielsen, Walt Disney and others, in a sale of drawings which includes outstanding archive material from Macmillan.

Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-463 0600). Viewing: Mon, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 11am-2.30pm and June 8, 11am.

LAVISH COSTUME JEWELLERY: New red flower head torch by Eisenberg (£100-£120) and a handsome sapphire and diamond triple cluster bar brooch (not outrageous at £400-£600) are just two items in this flamboyant costume jewellery sale.

Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Viewing: Mon, 9am-7.30pm. Sales: Tues, 2pm and Wed, 10.30am.

FOLLOW THE TREND: Irish pictures have been flavour of the month for a while and some of the top names are here. Jack Butler Yeats, Paul Henry and Frank MacKew. One of the most evocative is a James La Jume of shoppers in Moore Street (£28,000-£12,000). Christie's 52 Waterloo Road, Dublin 4 (001 765 555) and Hamilton Osborne King, Molesworth Street, Dublin (001 760 251). Viewing: Tues, 10am-7pm, Wed, 10am-4pm and sale, Wed 7pm, at the Hotel Conrad, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin.

SPECIALIZING IN FURNITURE: Fine 18th-century and later furniture, the residual collection of Thomas George Bum, a discerning collector who died in 1985. Much oak and walnut, together with metalwork, rugs and garden furniture.

Bruton Knowles, Albion Chambers, 111 Eastgate Street, Gloucester (0452 21267). Viewing: today and tomorrow, 10am-4pm. Sale: Tues, 10.30am.

HOMECOMING: Arthur Spooner and Arthur Knight-Hammond have pictures among 270 lots on sale in their home town, alongside a sketch by Dame Laura Knight, a watercolour by Sir Alfred Munnings and two by Sir William Russell Flint.

Sherwood Fine Arts Centre, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham (0502 620227). Sale: tonight, 6pm.

MIXED CHOICE IN CHESTER: Another good three-day sale starts with silver and plate, including a Victorian child's mug by Henry Wilkinson of Sheffield, 1840 (£120-£150). Good oak dressers turn up here regularly; an 18th-century oak example, 80in by 50in, among the furniture at £3,000-£4,000.

Sotheby's, 25-30 Watergate Street, Chester (0244 515531). Viewing: tomorrow, 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon, 9.30am-4.30pm. Sales: Tues, 1am and 1pm, Wed, 10.30 and 11am, Thurs, 11am and midday.

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ART EXHIBITIONS

ARK

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 1 1990

ARTS

19

ALBUMS

Hothouse of hearts

Hothouse Flowers: Home (London 828197.1)

THE charts have been engulfed by a flood of Irish rock since Hothouse Flowers released its *People* debut album, to resounding and deserving acclaim two years ago, so much so that the Dublin band seems already to belong to an earlier generation of wiser heads.

The impression is reinforced by echoes of the hippie idyll still to be found in the dreamy romanticism which informs the follow-up, *Home*. On a gorgeously affecting ballad, "Sweet Marie", singer Liam O'Maonlai finds himself walking by the lakeside, contemplating the end of a love affair. "I came to a tree, I said 'Hi, can I sit here?'" he sings, apparently without irony.

Elsewhere, on the rather more sprightly "Giving it all Away", O'Maonlai recalls being told of the slaughter of some dolphins. "I cried when I heard what they were doing," he hollers passionately, before invoking the ultimate weapon against such cruelty: "We have love - let's use it".

This touching lack of cynicism, coupled with the strong undercurrent of Celtic spirituality, imbues the music of Hothouse Flowers with a peculiarly timeless quality. A capable rendition of Johnny Nash's "I Can See Clearly Now" is the only cover version, apart from a traditional Gaelic air "Seoladh na Gamba", which closes the second side, yet neither song sounds out of place among the light, bustling swirl of guitars, saxophone and piano.

If there is a complaint, it is over the lack of diversification and the group's reluctance to develop the formula so successfully established on *People*. The fiddle playing of Nawalith Ali Khan leads a faintly Eastern lilt to "Water", and a collaboration with Daniel Lanois entitled "Shut up and Listen" recorded in New Orleans has something of a sleepy Southern Blues feel to it. Overall, the music stays put within tight stylistic guidelines.

It would be nice to think that the group's natural open-heartedness and generosity of spirit might in future lead it on to more adventurous musical quests.

Joan Armatradig: Hearts and Flowers (A&M 395 298-1)

You wonder what sort of life Joan Armatradig must lead, assuming there is even a kernel of truth in the scenarios depicted in her latest, first person despatch from the emotional front line. One minute she is so madly in love she has to fight to catch her breath ("Hearts and Flowers", "The Power of Dreams"); the next she discovers her lover is canoodling with someone else even as she is

talking to him on the phone ("Someone's in the Background"); and before you know it the passion has died and she is sensitively administering the order of the elbow - "You live your life/And let me live mine" ("Free").

Armatradig claims she gets her ideas by listening to conversations at dinner parties. She must keep company with some highly-strung individuals, since every song here is a maelstrom of interpersonal ferment. A pity, then, that there is not more evidence of spontaneous combustion in the arrangements of the songs which suffer from the calculated quality that besets the work of singer-songwriters who work for long periods in their own recording studios (see Kate Bush).

The two exceptions are "Good Times" - where the album's steamiest lyrics are underpinned by freaky, wailing guitar parts, backed out by Armatradig herself - and "Something in the Air Tonight", a remarkable *melange* of African, Latin and jazz-tinged rock propelled by the silencing fretless bass of Pino Palano and the infectious drumming of Mame Katché. Here, singing of love that has gone cold, the music shivers with hostile intent.

Paul Young: Other Voices (CBS 4689171)

Having over-reached himself with his involvement in the writing of his last album, *Between the Fires*, which marked the start of a sharp decline in his commercial fortunes when it was released in 1986, Paul Young took an extended break in order to reassess his career.

He returns to the fray with undoubtedly the best collection it was within his power to muster. Many months have been spent recording in London, New York and Los Angeles with a roster of musicians that reads like a *Who's Who* of the business. Stalwarts such as Manu Katché and Pino Palladino mix with stars including David Gilmour, Nile Rogers and even Stevie Wonder, who contributes a pert harmonica solo to "Calling You", a ballad of length and dubious sensitivity.

The material ranges from an airy modernized version of Free's pop-rock bop "A Little Bit of Love" to the more sophisticated melody of the Cook/Greenaway song "Softly Whispering I Love You" (a UK hit for the Congregation in 1971) and Bobby Womack's soul strut "Stop on by" - a bid for the George Benson end of the adult-soul market.

But Young is less convincing in the role of mainstream soul-rock crooner than he was as a high-class teenybop star. His voice has lost the attractive burr which made him so distinctive.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ROCK

Whose bass-line is it anyway?

David Toop meets the unseen musicians behind a new breed of pop-music auteur

For the past 35 years, pop music has been engaged in a struggle of image versus musicality. Pop is artifice but it depends upon the professional, often unglamorous skills of musicians to provide its raw materials. Records are increasingly seen as merely the starting point for a plethora of complementary promotional activities - fads, fashions, videos and the creation of a total, visual "look" - and it is during this process that musicians can become unseen ghosts in the machine.

The ascendancy of dance music, with its emphasis on DJs, producers and recording studio technology, has formed a dense cloud over the question of musical origins. Singers mime to sampled fragments of vocals stolen from old records, drummers mimic the rhythm patterns of a drum machine and DJs, their previous expertise confined to manipulating record turntables, pretend to play keyboard parts. In a recent interview in the *New Musical Express*, Diana Brown and Barrie K. Sharpe confessed to a lack of instrumental abilities. Their single, a fine track called "The Masterplan", evolved through the time-honoured expedient of humming ideas to the musicians.

The most prominent group in this field is Soul II Soul. A large proportion of their publicity has focused upon the positive philosophy and wide-ranging entrepreneurial activities of Beresford Romeo, its originator and front man, also known as Jazze B. At the centre of a floating pool of musicians, singers and programmers, Jazze B. is described by Simon Law, one of the Soul II Soul musicians, as "a very good communicator of ideas. I have a lot of respect for him," says Law, "because he's a good initiator".

Law contributed songs and keyboard parts to both Soul II Soul albums. When "Keep On Movin'", its breakthrough single,

was a runaway hit he expected to appear on *Top of the Pops*, but found the group more concerned with presenting an image than allowing the original musicians to be seen on television. Despite having reconciled himself to the role of invisible musician, Law still finds it difficult to accept the sight of non-musicians miming musical skills. "I have to be honest," he says. "That is quite offensive to me. When you see somebody else sitting at the piano just thumping away and you've actually spent a long time thinking about that bit and put a lot of yourself into it, it does gall."

Record-buyers rarely concern themselves with the intimate details of record production. There is a tradition within pop music, however, of non-musicians creating or modifying records with a degree of pragmatism that musicians find hard to muster. In Harlem in the 1950s, Bobby Robinson, a record company owner, would temper the artistic urges of his musicians by insisting on simplicity. His shrewd ear for sales potential led to records such as "Soul Twist", a basic rhythm and blues tune by King Curtis that might otherwise have been a poor-selling jazz track. As Simon Law says: "Usually, with someone who just likes music and is not a player of any kind, it's a question of like and dislike. If you've played something nice into a tune then you're loath to chop it out. It might not be right for that tune."

The disco era of the 1970s established the producer, the DJ and the remixer as artists in their own right. Although musicians such as James Jamerson, Philadelphiadrummers, have received belated recognition for their contributions to many hit records, the out-of-the-backroom stardom of the non-musicians pushed musicians further into obscurity. In more recent times, Jellybean Benitez, New York DJ, has established a prominent solo career without any apparent skills other



Confessing: Diana Brown and Barry K. Sharpe admit they cannot play any instruments

than a pragmatic ear. Three hit singles from his solo album, all of them performed without tangible input from the artist (other than direction from the sidelines) prompted many people to question this new *auteur* trend in pop.

Similarly, Malcolm McLaren has encountered deep suspicion in response to his musical career as a professional conceptualist. Records such as *Duck Rock* and *Waltz Darling* could be seen as collages of ideas, picked up in

magpie fashion from diverse sources and re-expressed through music. These ideas may be derided by real musicians but they have a habit of spreading like viral infections to other image creators, as was the case with McLaren's modest hit, "Deep In Vogue", which came to fruition with Madonna's "Vogue".

Simon Law senses a change in the wind. Musicians, he believes, will enrich the current configuration of DJs, electronic technology

and image-makers. The favourable response to the jazz instrumental, "Courtney Blows", from the new Soul II Soul album, may be an auspicious sign for the future. Law has his own philosophy to deal with the situation. "It's been like this in pop music since it started," he says. "If you really want to know what's happening, just listen to the music. Forget what you're seeing because what you're seeing is a big hype."

Zeppelin man takes the high road to nirvana

Archetypal heavy rock singer Robert Plant is still as loud and proud as ever. Steve Turner reports

his month's tour by Robert Plant, which reaches England tonight (see listings below for details) has been his first European jaunt since his days with Led Zeppelin, the band which dissolved 10 years ago after the death of drummer John Bonham.

"I missed touring, but touring was such a drama with Zeppelin that it wasn't much fun," says the 41-year-old singer who, with his Pre-Raphaelite hair and tight blue jeans, looks remarkably unchanged since the Seventies.

"I rather like it now because

everything is so fresh. There are no drugs and there's no boss, apart from my manager. It's a very healthy working situation."

Led Zeppelin inspired a generation of imitators. Plant says that they are out to make easy money knowing that Zeppelin maintains one of the music industry's most lucrative back catalogues.

"These new bands shower me with respect," he notes, "but at the same time they're glad we're not still doing it because it has left some space for them."

Manic Nirvana, Plant's current solo offering, shows him in tough Zeppelinesque form himself, and reached the Top 10 in America. Plant believes it would have made a worthy successor to Led Zeppelin's *Physical Graffiti*, a record he rates "the best collection and selection" the band ever made.

If he wanted to, he could re-form Led Zeppelin and earn the sort of mega-dollars recently pocketed by The Who and The Rolling Stones. "But it would just be an exercise in

how to re-create," he says. They did get together for Live Aid, appearing at Philadelphia's JFK Stadium, but many critics wish they hadn't bothered. Earlier this month they performed with Jason Bonham (son of John) as drummer at Bonham's wedding.

"Zeppelin's motivation was never financial and shouldn't become financial now," Plant argues. "However, if Jimmy Page and I could comfortably write together, there would be nothing wrong with that."

The current tour is scaled down from the Zeppelin caravan, and the fanfares don't sound quite so loudly. Does he miss it all?

"I still have it now," he says. "I just don't have it on such a huge commercial level. But what I have is much more focused."

"I think my last album, *Now and Zen*, which was made with American radio programming in mind, was ultimately too much of a compromise, although it became my most successful solo album."

With *Manic Nirvana* I wanted more definition.

Despite his wild-man-of-rock reputation and his influence on the hair and hair of heavy metal singers, Plant is much more musically eclectic than his "Spinal Tap" imitators, with favourites including acts as diverse as Ray Charles and The Cure.

The influences on *Manic Nirvana* are equally varied. He says "Watching You" reflects his interest in North African berber music. "Big Love" was written after hearing Aerosmith's "Love in an Elevator" and "Nirvana" is his attempt at psychobilly.

"Hurting Kind", his first single from the album, is the most reminiscent of Zeppelin, but Plant credits Gene Vincent for the inspiration.

"As a kid I wanted to be Gene," he says. "He was really kind of slinky. There was a lot of sex in his voice."

Plant is too garrulous to be slinky but he does have plenty of

sex in his voice - and in his lyrics. "I don't need to do research for my songs," he says. "All I have to do is to get into the situations I get into. I'm not very easy to live with and I wear people out. To write well I find I need the conflict."

Just as Paul McCartney has been reconciled to singing Beatles songs in concert, so Plant feels there's now enough distance between his solo career and Zeppelin to tour with some old favourites.

"I didn't feel I could make a career out of singing 'Black Dog', he says. "I had to go out and do what I do."

So what makes Robert Plant want to keep on writing, recording and touring?

"I just enjoy doing the thing that I do quite well," he explains. "I really do have a good time and I just long to see what the next project is."

"I don't need the money. What would I need it for? You can only have one car and one season ticket to Wolverhampton Wanderers."



Celtic spirituality: Hothouse Flowers blossom with *Home*

CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

ROCK

FLEADH 90: Headed by Van Morrison, Christy Moore and Hothouse Flowers, the vast line-up of exclusively Irish acts, marshalled on behalf of the Migrant Training Scheme Homeless Project, is proof of the popular revolution that has swept both traditional and modern Irish music into the limelight in recent years. Also appearing: Paul Brady, Mary Coughlin, the Dubliners, Davy Spillane, the Black Velvet Band, Dolores Keane, Andy White, Energy Orchard, Shanley Dam, and in *Tus Nua*, Finbar Barry, Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (081-963 0797), Sun, 11am, £18.

THE BIG DAY: Huge bash funded by Glasgow District Council, possibly in an attempt to use up some of those European City of Culture grants? Wet Wet Wet, Hothouse Flowers, Deacon Blue, Hue And Cry, Big Country, Sheena Easton, Adamski and John Martyn are just a few of the names. George Square and Glasgow Green, Glasgow (041 227 5851), Sun, 1pm, free.

ROBERT PLANT: Leonine ex-Led Zeppelin howler with a hot young band, sharp new album, *Manic Nirvana*, and not even a hint of mid-life crisis on the horizon. Aky supported by the comely Annah Myles, of "Black Velvet" fame. Sheffield City Hall, Bakers Pool (0742 732955), tonight, 7.30pm, £10.50-£11.50. Edinburgh Playhouse, 16-21 Grassmarket Place (031 557 2500), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £10.50-£11.50. Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (081-748 4081), Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, £11-£12. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4139), Thurs, 7.30pm, £10.50-£11.50.

THE BLACK CROWES: Yet another bunch of Rolling Stones/Faces marquee. Signed to Rick Rubin's Def American label, they have been making waves with an estimable debut, *Shake Your Money Maker*. Marquee, 105 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071-437 6603), Thurs, 7pm, £8.

LURRIE BELL: Young, hot-shot blues guitarist from Chicago. The son of harmonica player Carey Bell,

his playing evinces all the classic influences including Freddie, B.B. and Albert King. West End Centre, Queen's Road, Aldershot (0252 330040), tonight, 7.30pm, £3.15-£4.45. T&C2 (with Hubert Sumlin), Highbury Corner, London NW5 (071-700 5718), Wed, 7.30pm, £5.

JAMES: Fashionably mellifluous Mancunian seven-piece, who may have sacrificed some of their hip cachet by scoring a real (as was it for you?) hit with "How Was It For You?". Barrowlands, 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041 226 4679), Tues, 7.30pm, £6. Lancaster University, Bailings (0524 65201), Wed, 7.30pm, £5 (students with guests only).

AN EMOTIONAL FISH: Irish contenders with the right attitude. Fronted by charismatic singer Gerard Whelan, they are an unashamed rock band in the INXS tradition, who manage to avoid the pitfalls of the Celtic grandstand cliché (see U2). Polytechnic of Wales, Forest Grove, Treforest (0443 406227),

tonight, £1.50, 8pm. Warwick University, Gibbet Hill, Coventry (0243 41722), tomorrow, 8pm (free to students with guests only). Brixton Academy (with Deborah Harry), 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (071-326 1022), Sun, 7.30pm, £8.

HOUSHOUSE FLOWERS: Irish quintet with a jaunty line in pop-influenced, fronted by cut-throat cardinals Liam O'Maonlai. Their rousing live-shows are always good value. Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (091 261 2609), tonight, 7.30pm, £7.50. 23.50. Mayflower, Commercial Road, Southampton (0703 330083), Mon, 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, £8.50.

KENNY ROGERS: Texan elder statesman of redneck country, most well known here for his hits "Lucille" and "Coward of the County". Brighton Centre, King's Road (0273 202811), tonight, 7.30pm, £16.50-£18.50. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4139), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £16.50-£18.50. Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, The Bridge of Don (0224 641122), Mon, 7.30pm, £16.50-£18.50. Edinburgh Exhibition & Trade Centre, Ingleton (031 333 3036), Tues, 7.30pm, £16.50-£18.50. BIC, Exeter Road, Bournemouth (0202 297297), Thurs, 7.30pm, £16.50-£18.50.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ

RONNIE SCOTT'S CLUB: Minus its trumpetier Jack Walrath leads his sextet until tomorrow, giving way to fellow-horn player Arturo Sandoval, a barnstorming protégé of Dizzy Gillespie, with a sometimes unfortunate weakness for the high Cs. 47 Ffth Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), 9.30pm, until June 16: Mon-Thurs, £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat, £12 (members £8).

606 CLUB: The musicians' venue presents its customary double-bills, including mainstream/traditional sounds from Al Wynette (tonight), bop drummer Bryan Spring (tomorrow) and pianists Steve Loder (Tues) and Jonathan Gee (Thurs). 606 Lons Road, London SW10 (071-352 5653), nightly, 10pm-midnight and midnight-late, Sun-Thurs,

£4.25 (members £2.75), Fri and Sat, £4.50 (members £3). **OLIVER JONES:** First dates of a tour by the exuberant, two-handed modern-modernist pianist, widely tipped as Canada's "new Oscar Peterson". His recent trio album, *Just Friends*, featured a guest appearance by trumpeter Clark Terry. Bath Festival, Pump Room (Information: 0225 463362), tonight, 8pm, £5. Belfast Midsummer Jazz & Blues Festival (with Janusz Camello) Europa Hotel (Information: 0222 22222), tomorrow, 8pm, £8. The Waterworks Jazz Club, Waterworks Road, Edgaston, Birmingham (Information: 021 454 0212/458 7728), Sun, 8pm, £7.

DUNDEE JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL: The jazz highlights include Oliver Jones (Wed, see above), the East Coast Jazzmen (Mon) and the screening of Bruce Weber's poignant documentary on Chet Baker, *Let's Get Lost* (Sun). Various venues, Dundee (Further information: 0382 23530), tomorrow until June 9.

MIROSLAV VITOUS: The Czech bass player has a distinguished track-record, including slints with Weather Report and Keith Jarrett. Bath Festival, The Guildhall (Information: 0225 463362), Tues, 8pm, £6.

WORLD MUSIC

JORGE BEN: In the early Sixties, this Brazilian singer/guitarist composed "Mas Que Nada", one of the most popular songs of the bossa-nova craze. Since then, he has pursued a musical vision which embraces Rio's *Favela* sambas, American R'n'B, politics, football, religion and literature. Highly recommended. Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London W1 (071-437 1446), Sun, 7.30pm, £5.

BLACK UMFOLOGS: A cappella choir and dance troupe from the Zimbabwe, appearing in London with the renowned Shona music group, The *Wrecks*. West Indian Centre, Laycock Place, Leeds (0532 629456), tomorrow, 8.30pm, £5.50. Ronnie Scott's Club, Frith Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), Sun, 8pm, £7.

MC 800 FOOT JESUS: Iconoclastic rap duo from Dallas, with a penchant for African music samples and apocalyptic imagery. Subterrania, Acton Road, London W10 (081-860 4590), Wed, 8pm, £5.

IMRAT KHAN: A concert which promises Indian classical music at its profound and virtuosic best. Wingfield Church, Suffolk (037 984 506), tomorrow, 8pm, £5.50-£8.50.

SOUL BROTHERS: One of South Africa's top *Mbanga* groups distinguished by their smooth instrumental and vocal sound, hard rhythms and flashy stage outfits. Hammersmith Palais, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 (081-748 2812), Sun, 8pm, £12.

MUZZIKAS: Hungarian quintet inspired by the music of Transylvania. Their new album, *Blues for Transylvania*, is superb. Ardriah Village Hall, Argyle (0546 83212), tonight, 7.30pm, £4. Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh (031 228 1155), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £4. Tom Tom Club, High Street, Cardiff (0222 342 234), Tues, 9pm, £5.

THOMAS MAPFUMO: The musical hero of Zimbabwe, thanks to his anthems of the independence struggle, *Mapfumo's* sorrowful voice now addresses the problems of corruption and poverty in southern Africa. MGM, Greyfriar Gate, Nottingham (0602 419741), Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50.

CLIVE DAVIS

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REVIEWS

Greene without the disgust

Priestly Pimpernel: Edward Petherbridge in *The Power and the Glory*Hanging the President
Battersea Arts

HOUSED in the former town hall and sporting a marble foyer that would give tone to a modest opera house, Battersea Arts Centre has recently become the sole London showplace of several touring companies, and a home to transfers of plays by companies that do not normally tour.

The latest of them is Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre, bringing London the chance to see Michael Cee's tough and exciting play, his first to be professionally produced and already the winner of two awards.

The setting is the condemned cell in a Pretoria jail where Stoffel and Nak, two white murderers due to be hanged next morning, are still deluding themselves that a reprieve is possible. The two other thirds of the white Battersea stage have been cut off by three breeze block walls, within which all the action is concentrated. The cell contains two metal bunks, a door, one in, excrement in the other and the two prisoners, wearing grubby shorts and singlets and, at the start, staring out at us with

expressions of glazed contempt. Both the murders have been racially motivated, though neither of the victims is black. Stoffel (Stuart Hepburn) wrongly suspected his girl of sleeping with one and hacked her to death; Nak (Mark Faith) suspected a black friend of seducing his wife and shot him in the back, afterwards trying to incriminate black rioters. The two styles of murder sum up the characters of the two men: Nak panicky, nervous and, in a crisis, submissive; Stoffel constantly aggressive and blocked against reality.

Cee is Italian, though now resident in this country, and has never been to South Africa. I would not ordinarily remark on such personal details, but in this case they are worthy of mention because of the quite exceptional verisimilitude of his dialogue. The sexual play-acting, brutal verbal and physical assault, and the disintegration into terror are charted with horrible reality. Ian Brown's direction, intense and explicit, elicits from his two main actors performances that pound against us, vital, athletic and horrifyingly convincing.

Cee also shows fine playwriting skills in varying the tone

THEATRE
The Power and the Glory
Chichester Festival

THIS might seem an odd time to revive Denis Cannan's adaptation of the novel Graham Greene set in anti-clerical Mexico and published in the heyday of Stalin and Hitler.

The priest at the play's centre, so far from furiously plying his trade under the noses of men determined to exterminate him and his religion, would very likely be preparing a trip to Hungary and now Czechoslovakia, even Albania and the Ukraine. These days, repressive regimes, not the Catholic Church, are on the run.

But it is the metaphysics that matter more and date less. The play is actually about the making of one of those Greene saints the world despises. This particular priest drinks too much, has fathered a child, feels worthless and a spiritual failure, yet soldiers painfully on, defying poverty, danger and self-disgust. For him, dedication is professionally irrelevant and personally profitable. Through it he discovers humanity, love, and his own soul.

It is, however, hard to translate such complexities to the stage. Cannan's adaptation, Tim Luscombe's production, and Edward Petherbridge's playing of the main part combine to offer us something simpler. This is the tale of a priestly Pimpernel, always more than a hero, who doggedly puts duty before self-interest and moves logically towards a good, clean martyrdom.

The tale is lucidly told, fluently staged, and well acted by John

Turner and Jeffery Wickham, among other supporting players. There are striking encounters in front of the half-collapsed cathedral of Paul Farnsworth's set. The scene in which the priest wangles illegal wine for a mass, only to see it drunk by local potentates, retains the frisson it has in the novel. If other memorable moments are missing, blame limitations of time and the difficulty of representing introspection.

Even so, Luscombe might have done more to rough up his peasantry. There is something awfully unweatherbeaten about those faces and English about those voices. Starving villages in the Central American mountains might be secluded hamlets in the South Downs. More to the point, Luscombe should have roughed up his protagonist.

The point about Greene's original is that he is embarrassingly unimpressive. No one could accuse Petherbridge, with his long, sad face, of looking the least ordinary. There is always something grave and dignified about him, even when he is traipsing through the Mexican hell. There is always something fine about him, notwithstanding his reputation as a "whisky priest".

That is the real problem. It is hard to see why Petherbridge berates himself and others regard him with contempt. It is not just that he does not look as if he has tasted whisky. He never gives the impression of wanting it.

What he offers us is melancholy and fastidious exhaustion. What he misses are those feelings of wretchedness, humiliation and horror which, paradoxically, explain the stature he eventually achieves. What he misses is Graham Greene.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Clint Dyer (left) and Bill Leadbitter in *Hanging the President*

and content of scenes within the play, and that, too, Brown's direction confidently brings out the appearances by the Chief Warden (Bill Leadbitter), sexually longing for Stoffel's virile allure, credibly allow one or other of the prisoners to leave the cell, while the arrival of a third prisoner, the black Zwanini (Clint Dyer) sets the two foul whites against an altogether different kind of man,

with an attitude to reprieve — and to his fellow prisoners — that I will not divulge.

Stoffel's play-acting includes the role of President P.W. Botha, with whom he obsessively identifies to grimly comic effect. The result is to make the condemned cell the equivalent of the state itself, brutal, repressive and doomed.

JEREMY KINGSTON

JAZZ
Jack Walrath/
Barbara Thompson
Ronnie Scott's

IT IS not easy to warm to Jack Walrath's sextet: this was probably the most abrasive performance seen at Frith Street since the visit by George Russell.

All the same, the residency by the American trumpeter offers an excuse to reflect on how rarely we hear cover versions of pieces made famous by his early mentor, Charles Mingus. "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat" still gets an airing at irregular intervals, while the late

Gil Evans used to specialize in a tumbling account of "Orange Was The Colour Of Her Dream". Otherwise, Mingus has all but dropped from view on the concert circuit. His compositional techniques were perhaps simply too idiosyncratic for anyone to dare to copy.

Walrath took up the challenge on "Duke Ellington's Sound Of Love", an extended tone-poem which grew out of his collaboration with Mingus in the Seventies. With its restless tempo and abrupt changes in mood, the piece would stretch any band to the limit.

Walrath's team survived with its credibility intact, thanks in part to the yearning ballad interludes

by tenor saxophonist Carter Jefferson and a diabolically bass solo by Ray Drummond. The rest of the evening was a sprawling affair, lifted mainly by the frequent returns to Mingus and some acute arrangements. "A Home In Rome" passed off best as a platform for an acerbic fingerhorn solo from Walrath and some equally precise choruses from pianist Donald Brown.

After the sextet's barrage there was something to be said for the brief, if occasionally over-fussy interval set by reeds player Barbara Thompson. Her jazz-rock band, Paraphernalia, has been out of critical favour lately, though there is no clear reason — apart from the generation gap — why

Thompson should be unfashionable when she has as much, if not more, to say than, for instance, Steve Williamson.

Moving adeptly between alto, soprano and tenor saxophones, she gave a taste of her forthcoming album, and returned to the Eastern ambience of her work with Serendipity on a haunting, modalized ballad inspired by Sri Lankan folk music. Her own tribute to Duke Ellington was a good deal simpler than Walrath's. Underpinned by the inescapable rock beat, it amounted to a tongue-in-cheek impersonation of a big band, the surging interjections of a brass section implied by the keyboards.

CLIVE DAVIS

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

ELVIRA (c) *Heroin* of *Belinda's I Parthenon*, daughter of Lord Walton the Puritan warden of an improbable Plymouth Fortress, she is in love with the Cavalier hero, Lord Arthur Talbot, and goes mad when he helps Queen Henrietta to escape.

TREEMONISHA (d) Scott Joplin's opera set in cotton-picking Arkansas. Treemonisha is the young founding girl who was adopted by Ned and Monisha. She is kidnapped and nearly thrown into a wasps' nest by Zerkowitch, a charlatan conjurer.

BELOMONTE (c) Count Belmonte, lover of Constanza in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, he rescues her and her English maid Blonde from the hands of Pasha Selim.

MISS JESSIE (a) The ghost of the former governess in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, she and her dead lover Peter Quint have each to find a young disciple among the living.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



Today's position is from the game Lundin (White) — Morro (Black), Leipzig 1989. What is the most efficient conclusion to White's attack? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rb6+! 2 Qc3 3 Qc2+ 4 Qc3+ 5 Qc2+ 6 Qc3+ 7 Qc2+ 8 Qc3+ 9 Qc2+ 10 Qc3+ 11 Qc2+ 12 Qc3+ 13 Qc2+ 14 Qc3+ 15 Qc2+ 16 Qc3+ 17 Qc2+ 18 Qc3+ 19 Qc2+ 20 Qc3+ 21 Qc2+ 22 Qc3+ 23 Qc2+ 24 Qc3+ 25 Qc2+ 26 Qc3+ 27 Qc2+ 28 Qc3+ 29 Qc2+ 30 Qc3+ 31 Qc2+ 32 Qc3+ 33 Qc2+ 34 Qc3+ 35 Qc2+ 36 Qc3+ 37 Qc2+ 38 Qc3+ 39 Qc2+ 40 Qc3+ 41 Qc2+ 42 Qc3+ 43 Qc2+ 44 Qc3+ 45 Qc2+ 46 Qc3+ 47 Qc2+ 48 Qc3+ 49 Qc2+ 50 Qc3+ 51 Qc2+ 52 Qc3+ 53 Qc2+ 54 Qc3+ 55 Qc2+ 56 Qc3+ 57 Qc2+ 58 Qc3+ 59 Qc2+ 60 Qc3+ 61 Qc2+ 62 Qc3+ 63 Qc2+ 64 Qc3+ 65 Qc2+ 66 Qc3+ 67 Qc2+ 68 Qc3+ 69 Qc2+ 70 Qc3+ 71 Qc2+ 72 Qc3+ 73 Qc2+ 74 Qc3+ 75 Qc2+ 76 Qc3+ 77 Qc2+ 78 Qc3+ 79 Qc2+ 80 Qc3+ 81 Qc2+ 82 Qc3+ 83 Qc2+ 84 Qc3+ 85 Qc2+ 86 Qc3+ 87 Qc2+ 88 Qc3+ 89 Qc2+ 90 Qc3+ 91 Qc2+ 92 Qc3+ 93 Qc2+ 94 Qc3+ 95 Qc2+ 96 Qc3+ 97 Qc2+ 98 Qc3+ 99 Qc2+ 100 Qc3+ 101 Qc2+ 102 Qc3+ 103 Qc2+ 104 Qc3+ 105 Qc2+ 106 Qc3+ 107 Qc2+ 108 Qc3+ 109 Qc2+ 110 Qc3+ 111 Qc2+ 112 Qc3+ 113 Qc2+ 114 Qc3+ 115 Qc2+ 116 Qc3+ 117 Qc2+ 118 Qc3+ 119 Qc2+ 120 Qc3+ 121 Qc2+ 122 Qc3+ 123 Qc2+ 124 Qc3+ 125 Qc2+ 126 Qc3+ 127 Qc2+ 128 Qc3+ 129 Qc2+ 130 Qc3+ 131 Qc2+ 132 Qc3+ 133 Qc2+ 134 Qc3+ 135 Qc2+ 136 Qc3+ 137 Qc2+ 138 Qc3+ 139 Qc2+ 140 Qc3+ 141 Qc2+ 142 Qc3+ 143 Qc2+ 144 Qc3+ 145 Qc2+ 146 Qc3+ 147 Qc2+ 148 Qc3+ 149 Qc2+ 150 Qc3+ 151 Qc2+ 152 Qc3+ 153 Qc2+ 154 Qc3+ 155 Qc2+ 156 Qc3+ 157 Qc2+ 158 Qc3+ 159 Qc2+ 160 Qc3+ 161 Qc2+ 162 Qc3+ 163 Qc2+ 164 Qc3+ 165 Qc2+ 166 Qc3+ 167 Qc2+ 168 Qc3+ 169 Qc2+ 170 Qc3+ 171 Qc2+ 172 Qc3+ 173 Qc2+ 174 Qc3+ 175 Qc2+ 176 Qc3+ 177 Qc2+ 178 Qc3+ 179 Qc2+ 180 Qc3+ 181 Qc2+ 182 Qc3+ 183 Qc2+ 184 Qc3+ 185 Qc2+ 186 Qc3+ 187 Qc2+ 188 Qc3+ 189 Qc2+ 190 Qc3+ 191 Qc2+ 192 Qc3+ 193 Qc2+ 194 Qc3+ 195 Qc2+ 196 Qc3+ 197 Qc2+ 198 Qc3+ 199 Qc2+ 200 Qc3+ 201 Qc2+ 202 Qc3+ 203 Qc2+ 204 Qc3+ 205 Qc2+ 206 Qc3+ 207 Qc2+ 208 Qc3+ 209 Qc2+ 210 Qc3+ 211 Qc2+ 212 Qc3+ 213 Qc2+ 214 Qc3+ 215 Qc2+ 216 Qc3+ 217 Qc2+ 218 Qc3+ 219 Qc2+ 220 Qc3+ 221 Qc2+ 222 Qc3+ 223 Qc2+ 224 Qc3+ 225 Qc2+ 226 Qc3+ 227 Qc2+ 228 Qc3+ 229 Qc2+ 230 Qc3+ 231 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Qc2+ 1008 Qc3+ 1009 Qc2+ 1010 Qc3+ 1011 Qc2+ 1012 Qc3+ 1013 Qc2+ 1014 Qc3+ 1015 Qc2+ 1016 Qc3+ 1017 Qc2+ 1018 Qc3+ 1019 Qc2+ 1020 Qc3+ 1021 Qc2+ 1022 Qc3+ 1023 Qc2+ 1024 Qc3+ 1025 Qc2+ 1026 Qc3+ 1027 Qc2+ 1028 Qc3+ 1029 Qc2+ 1030 Qc3+ 1031 Qc2+ 1032 Qc3+ 1033 Qc2+ 1034 Qc3+ 1035 Qc2+ 1036 Qc3+ 1037 Qc2+ 1038 Qc3+ 1039 Qc2+ 1040 Qc3+ 1041 Qc2+ 104

aches

expenditure or for...
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must not be preferable...
with all the attendant...
and uncertain outcome...
before the ECJ...
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as would have wide...
implications going...
around Blackpool and...
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in water authority...
promotes...
additional expenditure...
privatization, the analogue...
to EFL (external financing...
is higher charges... and/or...
sale price.

reveals
oxin in
of crab

in crab meat. "The significance of this cannot be determined until further tests are available. All locally caught shellfish including crustaceans, eg crabs, lobsters, shrimps and prawns caught between the Humber and Montrose could cause illness and must not be eaten."

Bone in car
park thought
to be human

FRAGMENTS of bone found by police searching under an east London car park for the remains of missing boy are thought to be human. Scotland Yard said yesterday (Stewart) Tuesday when full confirmation from a bone expert is expected.

Part of an arm or other fragments were found earlier this week after police searched for a bone in a car park in London. Police said they are expected to begin excavations for more months.

Sky complaints

Lothian residents have complained about the quality of the service provided by Sky Television. A spokesman for the company said that the quality of the service is improving and that the company is committed to providing a high standard of service.

Life ban on dog

The Kennel Club has issued a ban on the ownership of certain breeds of dogs in certain areas. The ban is intended to protect the public from the potential dangers of these breeds.

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TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

8.00 Ceejay
8.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by Simon Parkinson and Peter Jones, begins with Heathcliff (Cats and...) Cartoon adventures of an alley cat (r) 9.25 Eggs 'n' Baker. In today's edition of the food and pop series Cheryl Baker is joined by Big Fun and Jemma Stewart (r) 9.55 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by Matchpoint (r) 10.30 Playdays. Fun for the young (r) 10.50 Stoppit and Tidyup. Terry Wogan lends his voice to the animated series for children (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Vladimir Morzin reads works by contemporary Romanian poets
11.00 News and weather followed by Junior Kick Start. Peter Purves and Jack Stiles commentate on the grand final of the juvenile motorbike trials competition from Lord Hesketh's estate in Northampton
11.30 Daytime Live Replay. Highlights from the recent series
12.00 News and weather followed by Dallas (r) (Ceejay)
12.50 The Travel Show UK Mini Guides. How to get the most out of sightseeing in Britain. Roger Wilkes visits Hastings (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather

BBC 2

8.45 Open University: Energy and Rockets. Ends at 7.10
9.00 Living on the Land. Profile of Parson Peter Fluck, a former professional soldier who joined the priesthood and now serves the Wolds of Lincolnshire, the biggest Church of England parish group in the country (r)
9.30 Zoo Vet. A profile of vet Peter Scott (r)
10.00 Rally in the Sky. The second of two films recording a rally of microite aircraft across northern England. With Cameraman Sid Parou (r)
10.30 Hidden Depths. Sir Percu again, this time in the suburban depths of northern England and the West Country (r)
11.00 Film: The Gay Desperado (1936, b/w) starring Nino Martini, Ida Lupino and Leo Carmio. Engaging musical-comedy spoof about an opera-loving Mexican bandit who kidnaps a famous singer. Directed by Robert Mamoulian
12.00 Film: Back in the Woods (1919, b/w). A classic Harold Lloyd silent in which he plays a religious novice who with Bela Blasko as the local tombor. Directed by Hal Roach
12.35 Cameron Cousin. James Cameron meets the men on board the aircraft-carrier HMS Eagle who are trying to come to terms with the fact that the ship is no longer needed (r)
1.30 Tales of Aesop. 1.25 Freeman Sam (r) 1.35 Better Than New. How to renovate a cabinet (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Weekend Outlook (r)
2.20 Golf and Show Jumping. The Emirates Airline Cup, the richest grand prix in Britain, from Hickstead and the Dunhill British Masters golf being played on the Duke's Course at Woburn. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
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EC may use tax to make UK drop veto on CO₂ level

By PETER GUILFORD in BRUSSELS and
MICHAEL MCCARTHY in LONDON

THE European Commission may retaliate with a Europe-wide "carbon tax" on cars, power stations and other users of fossil fuels if Britain does not come into line with the rest of Europe over moves to combat global warming, it emerged yesterday.

The threat signals a serious environmental clash between Britain and the rest of the European Community in which Britain will once more be cast as the odd man out.

Brussels has flatly rejected as inadequate the announcement last week by Mrs Thatcher that British emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the gas principally responsible for the greenhouse effect, will be stabilized at 1990 levels by the year 2005, five years later than the EC deadline.

Backed by a number of member states, including The Netherlands, West Germany and Denmark, the Commission will exert maximum pressure on Britain to drop its lone veto at a meeting of EC

environment ministers in Luxembourg next Thursday.

Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EC Environment Commissioner, yesterday appealed to Mrs Thatcher to bring the British deadline five years forward. This, he said, would give the Community the chance to make actual reductions in CO₂ levels from the beginning of the next century and assume the world lead on green standards. The cuts would be accompanied by a reforestation campaign.

"I appeal to the understanding of the London Government, and hope the deadline will be changed," he said at a conference on EC environmental policy in Brussels. However, senior officials later went further, and told *The Times* that if Britain failed to do so, the Commission would react swiftly by pushing for a "carbon tax" which, they claim, would need only majority consent in the Council of Ministers. "If the UK refused to accept our target date, the Commission could attack the UK in another way, through a tax. This is a very real possibility," one official said.

There is ample scientific evidence, the officials said, to assume that a freeze and subsequent cutback in CO₂ levels would be feasible by the year 2000, adding that they strongly suspected Mrs Thatcher of delaying the deadline because she is reluctant to burden companies and consumers with costly fuel economies before the next election.

Signor Ripa di Meana is confident that the Commission may at last have broken the backbone of Britain's opposition. Mrs Thatcher, he said yesterday, has at least agreed to the principle of setting a deadline for a freeze on CO₂ levels.

The EC must strike a final agreement next week, the Commissioner said, in order to take the world lead in environmental matters and "fill the void left by the US".

A Department of the Environment spokesman said last night: "We were one of the first countries to declare a commitment at all."

● Dust bowl fear: East Anglia is in danger of becoming a dust bowl in 30 years because of global warming, scientists said last night.

Professor Keith Clayton speaking on Independent Television News, said that the water companies must start soon on a national water grid to pump water from Scotland and Wales to eastern areas.

33 die in Karachi violence

From REUTER
IN KARACHI

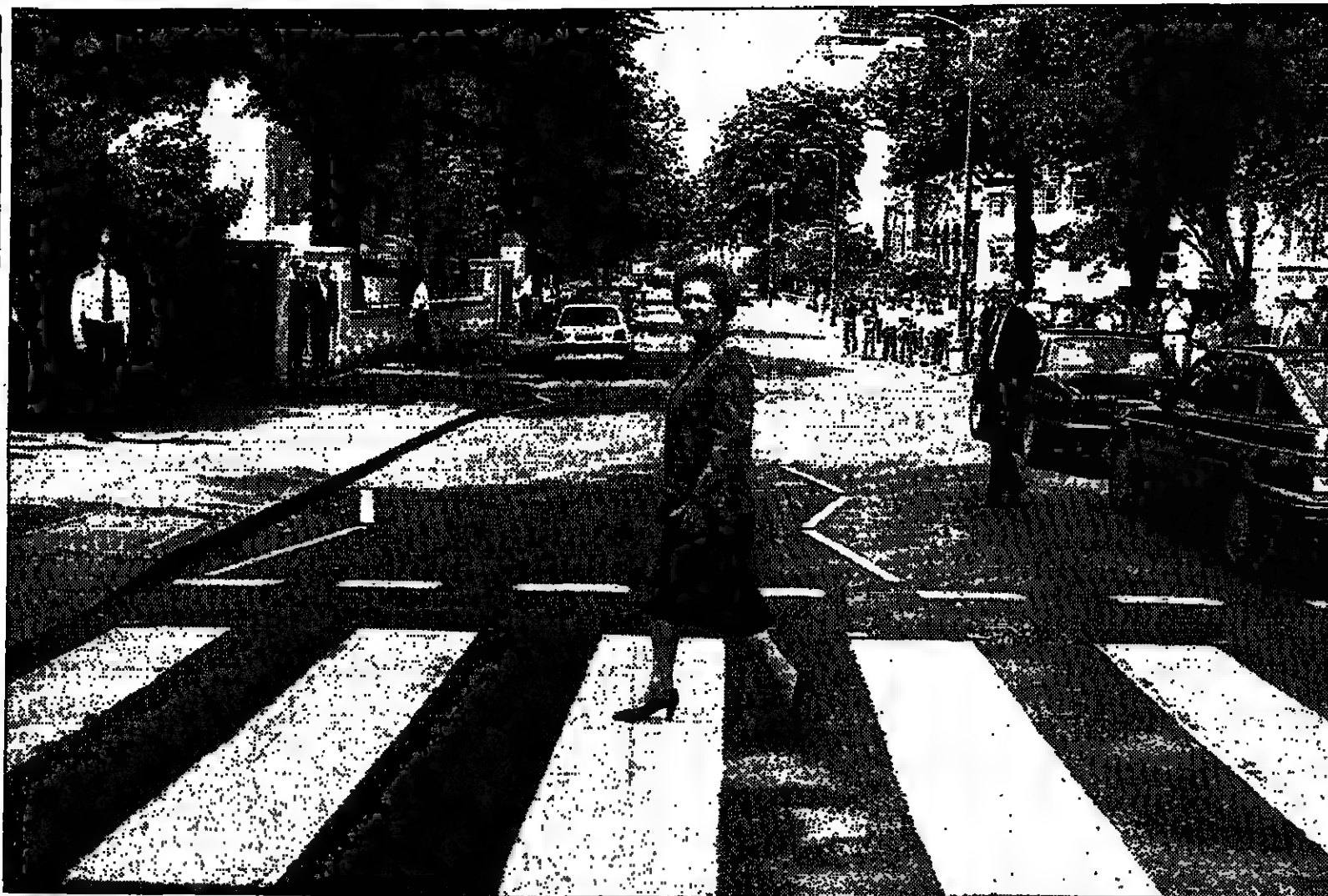
GUNMEN killed at least 21 people at a bus stop in Karachi yesterday, taking the day's toll from new ethnic violence in the Pakistan port city to 33, doctors and police said.

The unidentified gunmen in cars sprayed bullets at a government bus and at people waiting at the stop in the Qayyumabad area.

Ambulance crews said 35 people were injured in the shooting. Earlier in the day, militants firing rockets and rifles killed 12 people and injured more than 15 in the city, police said.

One shoulder-carried missile killed a boy aged 12 and damaged four houses in west Karachi's Orangi township, where doctors said three other people died in separate gun battles. Gunmen opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles outside a labour court, killing a lawyer, a policeman and another man. Gunmen also attacked a train near Hyderabad in the south.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, yesterday postponed a four-nation Gulf tour scheduled to start tomorrow because of the violence.



Abbey returns Mrs Thatcher, top, walking across the zebra crossing in Abbey Road made famous by the Beatles on the cover of their album of that name, bottom right. The Prime Minister was visiting the EMI recording studios used by the band, where she tried her hand at a drum solo, and at the same time admitted to being a fan of 'The Fab Four'. She said: "I loved the songs of the Beatles. They were sheer genius."

Private firms will escort prisoners to jails

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATE security firms are to be allowed to escort prisoners to and from jails in a demonstration project as part of a radical review of penal policy being conducted by ministers in the wake of the recent jail riots.

Ministers are also expected to approve a yet bolder pilot project which will involve a private contractor running a remand centre for several years. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, is to announce at least one of the initiatives in a Commons statement this summer.

Before the explosion of unrest at Strangeways prison in April ministerial discussions about expanding the private sector's role in the

criminal justice system were low-key. However, it emerged yesterday that in March the Prime Minister summoned Mr Waddington to Downing Street where she expressed renewed interest in the subject. That, together with the jail riots, seems to be the source of the new feeling in the Home Office that the time is ripe for the state's monopoly provision of custodial services to be at least partially breached.

Ministers have apparently ruled out the possibility of companies taking over mainstream prisons. But there is now a growing conviction that a more limited expansion in the private sector's role could relieve pressure throughout the prison system and produce cost savings.

Hiving off responsibility for ferrying inmates between jails and courts

and guarding them during proceedings would mean large numbers of police and prison officers could be diverted to more useful operational duties.

So far as private remand centres are concerned, the advantage is seen as higher standards and the linked merit of greater inmate stability. At present, many of Britain's 10,000 remand prisoners suffer the worst penal conditions as most are located in overcrowded, Victorian-built jails.

Ministers privately accept that this is intolerable, given the fact such people are innocent in the eyes of the law.

Companies winning escort or remand centre contracts would be subject to Whitehall-based monitoring — a factor which Mr Waddington regards as vital given the responsibility

he has to Parliament to ensure that prisoners are held securely.

A number of rough designs have been submitted to the Home Office by private consortia, specifically formed to lobby for remand centre work. These envisage inmates being housed singly in bright, spacious cells, each equipped with a wash basin and lavatory.

What is still undecided is whether firms will be invited to tender for the design, construction and management of a centre or just for the running of an existing establishment. This partly reflects Home Office uncertainty about the extent to which the jail population is expected to increase in the future. If a sharp expansion is predicted, officials will probably plump for built-and-managed centres.

Delay on dirty beaches claimed

Continued from page 1

undermined the Government's stated "confidence and determination" to defend itself against the prosecution.

Mr Blake Lee-Harwood, water pollution campaigner for the Friends of the Earth said: "These documents show the Government's behaviour over bathing water was almost solely aimed at postponing legal action until after privatization."

The fact that Britain had only nominated 27 designated bathing beaches, fewer than landlocked Luxembourg, was, according to the documents, "done by the Government to hold down the pressures on expenditure — contrary to the intention, though not the letter, of the Directive."

In a minute to the then Local Government and Environment Minister, Mr William Waldegrave, Mr Peter McIntosh, then head of the Water Quality Division, said that there was "no fundamental reason why we cannot identify further bathing waters". However, there were "strong practical reasons why it might be preferable not to do so now — part of a possible bargain would be the identification of further waters."

There was an acceptance that plans for improving Blackpool, at a provisional cost of £35 million, would have to be made but otherwise the Government felt it could get away with "adequate assurances" to the Commission on Pollution "without the need for significant additional expenditure."

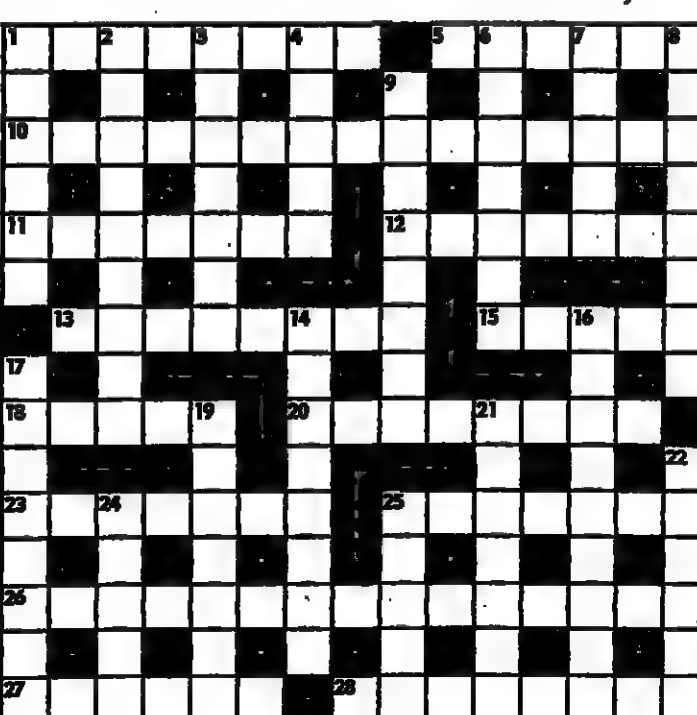
A memorandum from Mr McIntosh to Dr Martin Holdgate, then Chief Scientist at the Department of the Environment stated that "to avoid successful court of justice proceedings which could have much wider implications — both politically and in terms of changing water authority programmes everywhere — it is likely that something would have to be done."

Last night Dr Holdgate, speaking from his home in Switzerland, denied there had been any deliberate "obfuscation, at least as far as we were concerned."

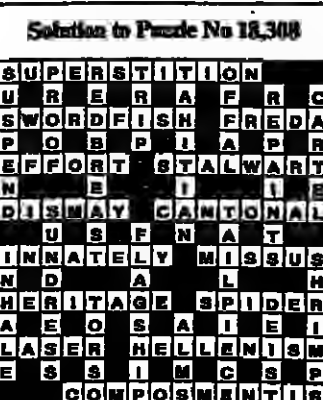
"By 1986 there was no question that it was accepted that the bathing beaches needed to be cleaned up and the resources to achieve that had been committed. I believe that ministers of the day were fully behind the programme."

The Government admitted that it found itself in a quandary over how to offer a new policy on pollution to placate Brussels and a sceptical public without actual "major new action and expenditure". "We think this is possible,"

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,309



- ACROSS**
- In the song, country is blind (8).
 - Fellow caught in a surprise attack is frightened (6).
 - Pipe that stopped working, unexpectedly overcome (6,3,4).
 - Worry about sailors at one time orientating (7).
 - Oriental agents imprisoning Siamese backsliders (7).
 - Fish I catch in a basket (8).
 - He had, for instance, retreated to avoid committing himself (5).
 - Old Greek story (5).
 - Traveller making use of stray horse, we hear (8).
 - Draw together a large picture (5-2).
 - Place that attracts interest (7).
- DOWN**
- Foreign currency — business takes a large quantity (6).
 - Sorry about imprisoned worker (9).
 - Be economical and vain (7).
 - Commander elected once more (5).
 - Belgian disguising himself (7).
 - Raised an 18 (5).
 - Aloof fellow upset and hurt (8).
 - Illegally get hold of your secret (8).
 - Gobbledygook takes information over the top (8).
 - Lecture 21st (5,4).
 - Grass sounds, in the ear, like grass (8).
 - Some muscle-men, they say, are mild (7).
 - Racial discrimination finally admitted in principle (6).
 - Ring belonging to us contains turquoise on either side (5).
 - Dirty little boat (5).



Solution to Puzzle No 18,308

ACROSS
1. COUNTRY
2. FELLOW
3. PIPE
4. WORRY
5. ORIENTAL
6. FISH
7. HE
8. OLD
9. TRAVELLER
10. DRAW
11. PLACE

DOWN
1. CURRENCY
2. SORRY
3. BE
4. COMMANDER
5. BELGIAN
6. RAISED
7. ALOOF
8. ILLEGALLY
9. GOBBLEDYGOOK
10. LECTURE
11. GRASS
12. SOME
13. RACIAL
14. RING
15. DIRTY

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
OPERATICS

- ELVIRA**
a. A peasant girl
b. A princess of Poland
c. A soprano made for love
- TREMONTINA**
a. A soprano made for love
b. A ragtime opera
c. A gypsy fortune teller
- HELMONTE**
a. Sheila's lover
b. A horror ruler
c. A tenor made for love
- MISS JESSEL**
a. A governess made for love
b. An English chaperone
c. A South African diva
- Answers on page 20

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C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
- National traffic and roadworks**
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
- AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).**

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Concise crossword, page 15

WEATHER

A cold front will move eastwards across Britain. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will start with rain. By midday, fresher weather will push in. Eastern Scotland will start dry, but rain will spread clearing in the evening. Rain will reach Wales and western England, but be replaced by showers in the afternoon. Eastern England will have morning sunshine but will develop thundery showers in the afternoon. Outlook: rather changeable.

ABROAD

MODAY: t=thunder; d=dizzle; f=fog; s=sun; c=cloud; w=wind; r=rain; b=brilliant; i=ice; o=overcast; v=very

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	22-28	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	
Algeria	20-26	S	10-20	

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	
Scarborough	12-18	W	10-20	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 23C (73F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 14C (57F). Humidity: 6 pm, 38 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 9.5 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,018.1 mbars, falling. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph), 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph).

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Rose-on-Wye, Hereford & Worcester, 21C (70F). Lowest day temp: Lough, Shetland, 11C (52F). Highest night temp: Plymouth, Devon, 0.47 in. Highest sunrise: Exeter, Devon, 04.17 hr. Highest sunset: Exeter, Devon, 19.53 hr.

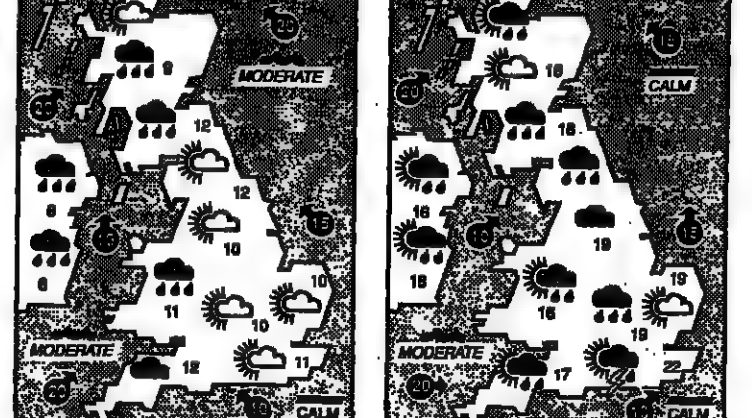
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 20C (68F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 38 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 9.5 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,018.1 mbars, falling. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph), 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph).

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 38 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 9.5 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,018.1 mbars, falling. Wind: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph), 1.0 m/s (2.2 mph).

AM PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 9.17 pm to 4.49 am
Bristol 9.17 pm to 4.49 am
Edinburgh 9.17 pm to 4.49 am
Manchester 9.17 pm to 4.49 am
Penzance 9.17 pm to 4.49 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C. F.
Belfast 14 57C 61F
Birmingham 22 72C 82F
Bristol 21 70C 70F
Cardiff 18 64C 55F
Edinburgh 10 50C 50F
Glasgow 15 59C 58F
Liverpool 19 65C 65F
Manchester 21 70C 70F
Newcastle 17 63C 63F
Penzance 19 65C 65F
Sheffield 19 65C 65F
Wolverhampton 19 65C 65F

POLLEN COUNT

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council is as follows: 12 (low), 13 (medium), 14 (high), 15 (very high). For the rest of the country, the pollen count is as follows: 12 (low), 13 (medium), 14 (high), 15 (very high).

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at the following times today: 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 8pm and 10.30pm.

HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4
London Bridge	8.44	6.4

NOON TODAY

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY JUNE 1 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

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- FOCUS ON WEST YORKSHIRE 31-33
- MOTORING 35
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 37
- LAW 38
- SPORT 39-44

Delay on dirty beaches claimed

Continued from page 1
undermined the Government's stated "confidence" in itself against the protesters.
Mr. Blake, who has been water pollution campaigner for the Friends of the Earth, said: "These documents are the Government's belated attempt to delay action on water pollution."

B&C to circulate survival plans

FRESH proposals for the financial restructuring of British & Commonwealth, Mr. John Gunn's financial services group, are expected to be circulated to key stakeholders today.

Meanwhile, increased efforts were being made to forestall any fresh wave of demands for repayment from the convertible loan stockholders that could trigger the group's final demise.

Profits up 9.8% at Thorn-EMI

Thorn-EMI, the appliance, rental and music conglomerate, raised pre-tax profits by 9.8 per cent to £318 million in the year to end March on a 13 per cent rise in sales to £3.72 billion. Profit before interest increased by 14 per cent.

Interim £17.6m from M&G

The M&G unit trusts and pensions group weathered uncertain Stock Exchange and investment conditions in the six months to March and achieved a pre-tax profit of £17.6 million (£12.3 million). M&G is reducing the disparity between the interim and final payments by paying an interim dividend of 7.5p a share on July 3 (4.5p). The group indicates it will pay a final of at least 9p (8p). The shares rose 16p to 445p.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5770 (-0.0170)
W German mark 2.8487 (+0.0045)
Exchange index 89.0 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1855.0 (-2.4)
FT-SE 100 2345.1 (-1.1)
New York Dow Jones 2887.10 (+8.54)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and Major changes Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/4-15 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4-14 3/4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7 7/8-7 7/32%
5-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.5770
£: DM1.8590
£: Sfr1.4325
£: FF9.8094
£: FF25.91
£: Yen125.50
£: SDR10.774806
£: ECU1.364746
£: SDR1.290978

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$363.70 pm \$363.05
close \$363.50 \$364.00 (£218.50-217.00)
New York
Comex \$363.50 \$364.00*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$16.30 bbl (\$16.90)
* Denotes latest trading price

BITCOIN

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.15
Canada \$	20.85	19.55
Denmark Kr	61.50	57.50
France Fr	2.25	1.94
Germany DM	11.50	10.85
Italy Lira	6.88	6.58
Japan Yen	11.50	10.85
Netherlands Gld	13.72	12.82
Portugal Esc	205	193
Spain Ptas	1.13	1.03
Sweden Kr	2.15	2.05
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	2.25	2.15
USA \$	1.78	1.68
Yugoslavia Dnr	23.75	17.75

Rates for small denomination bank only as applied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

USSR plans gold sales to pay foreign bills

By GEORGE SIVELL

GOSSBANK, the Soviet state bank, said that 1.5 billion roubles of commodity sales are planned to help reduce a \$2 billion pile of unpaid bills from Western suppliers.

The public statement ends weeks of speculation over how the Soviets, normally prompt payers, would redress their mounting trade deficit which has arisen from the apparent economic deterioration across the USSR in the past year and increased buying by state organizations of Western consumer goods.

At the official rate of exchange

fixed by the Soviet bank, 1.5 billion roubles are worth slightly more than £1.5 billion or \$2.5 billion.

Soviet commodity sales will include gold, and other unspecified commodities, but not oil or gas, said Mr Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of Gosbank.

In Moscow yesterday, he conceded that the Soviet Union recognized the need to pay its trade debts, which Western bankers now claim could threaten the Soviet Union's future creditworthiness, at a time when President Mikhail Gorbachev is calling for bank credits from the West to finance dev-

elopment of an open market economy. "Certain measures are being taken by state institutions selling goods from their stores which are in demand on Western markets to raise 1.5 billion roubles," Mr Gerashchenko said.

The payments problem has affected a number of suppliers, and one Dutch company, Akzo, went public last week on its problems and laid off 40 workers in its fibres division as a result of unpaid Soviet bills.

The recent weakness of gold prices has fuelled speculation about the Soviet's payment problems.

Soviet gold production is estimated at 300 tonnes annually, compared with 608 tonnes in South Africa and 259.1 tonnes in the United States.

Production was thought to have been lower last year. Soviet gold production, reserves and dealings have always been a mystery to the gold market but dealings are said to have picked recently after a lull throughout last year.

However, Mr Gerashchenko played down the role that gold would play in the new drive to reassure its Western suppliers.

"We are selling gold," he said, "but we are not willing to sell too much gold. We believe it is necessary to preserve our supplies."

But he added that Vneshekonombank, the Soviet bank for foreign economic relations which finances much of the country's trade, would offer gold swaps, selling gold for cash now with an agreement to buy it back later, to raise some of the funds to pay off the trade credits. This would help to take the downward pressure off the gold price.

Last night, the London gold price closed \$275 down at \$363.75 an ounce, but in New York the price traded up to \$368.70 on the Russian reports.

Split in OECD a threat to talks

From NEIL BENNETT IN PARIS

YAWNING differences of opinion between the US and the EC have been highlighted by a rare split communiqué from the ministers' meeting at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The communiqué, issued after the annual meeting, admits that while the US and its supporters want separate negotiations on internal farming support, export subsidies and market access barriers, the EC will discuss them only as a package. This impasse, unless settled by July, threatens the success of the Uruguay round of world trade talks, which must be completed this year.

The OECD, in theory, a consensus body of 24 nations, admits to disagreement only under extreme pressure. The communiqué's wording was agreed after heated discussions through Wednesday night and yesterday morning.

The document goes on to stress the importance of success in the Uruguay talks, being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, calling its issues the highest priority on the international economic agenda. It adds: "The shape of the final package... must be established by July. However, there are major stumbling blocks. Ministers therefore express their determination to make the necessary difficult political decisions."

With this underlining to settle the impasse at the Gatt Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on July 23, the US and the EC have set a tough timetable.

Mr Ray MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, said: "The US must agree to progressive reduction in subsidies. Talking about elimination is cloud-cuckoo land." The Americans still want an end to export subsidies, which the EC refuses to accept. The EC also insists on the right to retain some subsidies, but the US wants eventual abolition.

Mr MacSharry said that the EC would not agree to subsidy cuts until other countries recognized that it had reduced support by up to 15 per cent since 1988 and did likewise.

OECD ministers agreed to offer support to Eastern Europe, to fight protectionism and to seek an international effort to protect the environment. The EC won an important concession from the US with a unanimous commitment to countries operating by multilateral trade rules alone. Until now, the US has wanted a right to unilateral sanctions.

Help needed, page 27

Eurotunnel in £530m deal for share issue

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL has secured a £530 million underwriting agreement for a share issue, scheduled for this year, bringing to an apparent end the latest chapter of financial problems facing the cross-Channel rail project.

The agreement was crucial for Eurotunnel to continue to draw an existing credit facilities from May and August, when a new credit agreement is to be put in place.

The Anglo-French consortium will this month also have to secure the go-ahead from its shareholders to increase its share capital. But this is almost certain because the company would otherwise face the prospect of going out of business.

Mr Alastair Morton, Euro-

tunnel's chief executive, said proposals have now been agreed to increase the credit facilities from £5 billion to £7 billion. The period by which Eurotunnel has to pay back the loans has been increased by five years to 2010.

The £530 million facility envisages a primary underwriting price of £4 per Eurotunnel unit. The agreement also provides for a fall-back price of £2.40, in case market conditions deteriorate. The share issue is expected to be launched by October 23.

It may, however, be re-underwritten in which case the actual issue price may differ from the current underwriting price of £4.

Eurotunnel also secured an additional £300 million loan from the European Investment Bank this week, a long-

term loan granted at a fixed rate of interest.

After these deals, Eurotunnel's funds will go up from a current £5 billion to £8.5 billion. Mr Morton said that he hoped this would be the last refinancing of the project as the planned capital should be sufficient to see the project through.

Mr Morton said he was encouraged by a new agreement between Eurotunnel and Transmanche-Link, under which TML will have to cover 30 per cent of the cost rises.

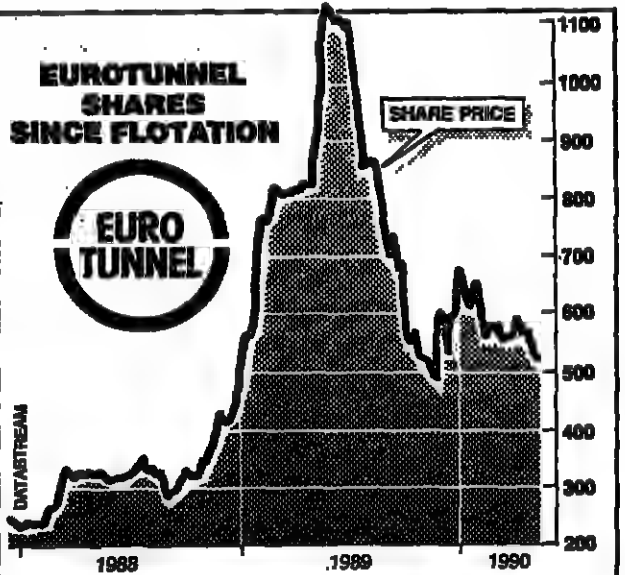
Tunnelling had been running at a faster rate in the past five months than towards the end of last year. On the French side, tunnelling is ahead of schedule, although the British side is still marginally behind. The breakthrough of the first of the two service tunnels is due in November.

Eurotunnel also admitted to a small rise in project costs, up from £7.5 billion to £7.66 billion, as a result of provisions for inflation, interest and net cash flow. Construction costs have not been revised upwards.

It was the rise in construction costs - up from an estimated £2.71 billion in 1987 to a current estimate of £4.25 billion - which was the reason behind Eurotunnel's financial crisis and the resulting need for additional capital.

Eurotunnel expects to capture a 32 per cent of the existing passenger traffic market, and an 18 per cent share of the freight market.

Eurotunnel's first dividend is due in 1998, four years later than originally envisaged.



LVMH doubles its stake in Guinness

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the French champagne and luxury goods group, has doubled its stake in Guinness, the British drinks company, to 24 per cent, at an estimated £850 million.

LVMH bought 4.9 per cent of Guinness shares in an off-market transaction yesterday morning, bringing its total to 17.3 per cent. Later, the company announced a tender offer to Guinness shareholders for a further 6.8 per cent, which would take its holding to 24 per cent.

LVMH's offer is for a maximum price of 825p a share. LVMH is covered by a so-called overwriting agreement, organized by SG Warburg, the merchant bank, under which LVMH is guaranteed the maximum price of 825p if the issue is not fully

taken up. In that case Warburg, which has sub-overwritten the issue, will buy Guinness shares and sell them on to LVMH at 825p.

The total purchase price of about £850 million is more than twice what LVMH paid for its original 12.4 per cent stake.

M Robert Léon, a director of LVMH, said the company did not intend to raise its holding above this level, or to launch a bid for Guinness. Both companies have substantial distribution agreements.

News of the tender offer sent Guinness' shares up 27p to close at 769p.

LVMH's stake-building, supported by the Guinness board, was made under a two-year-old agreement entailing both to equal cross-shareholdings.

Gas payout up 16% as profits hit £929m

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Gas is paying its 2.6 million shareholders a 16.7 per cent increase in dividends for last year, despite the warmest winter for 300 years.

Mr Robert Evans, the chairman, said the mild weather hit after-tax profits by an estimated £250 million and sales by about £700 million.

Mr Evans said the dividend increase was decided after consideration of likely current cost profits in future and was in line with a decision last year to raise the proportion of net profits paid out in dividends over the next few years.

Analysts interpreted this as a sign that increases of about 15 per cent in total dividends are likely for the next few years. The 7.3p final for the year to end-March makes a 10.5p total, against 9p before. British Gas managed to

raise after-tax profits to £929 million from £896 million, on turnover up from £7.5 billion to £7.99 billion. But the profits trailed in at the bottom end of market expectations and shares slipped 4 1/2p to 216p.

The new Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruling on industrial gas pricing also lopped £40 million off net income, though a tax repayment of £68 million including secured interest, reduced the tax charge and net interest paid.

In the British domestic market, sales volumes were marginally down but revenues rose 3.6 per cent. The group generated £1.7 billion of cash in the year, against capital spending of £750 million.

Earnings per share rose from 21.2p to 21.7p.

Comment, page 25

Storehouse profits hit low

By OUR CITY STAFF

STOREHOUSE is cutting its dividend total from 8.8p to 5p a share for the year to end-March in the face of the worst profits performance seen since the group was formed.

Retail profits of the group, which takes in BHS, Habitat, Mothercare and Richards, sunk from an already depressed £53.3 million to £39.4 million.

Exceptional debits took £19.8 million, bringing the two-year tally to £68.9 million, while extraordinary items required another £7.4 million, compared with a £52.8 million credit. The result is taxed profits for the

year of just £1.1 million, compared with £58.8 million.

Much of the profits damage came from a £27 million stock clean-up, but sales barely kept pace with retail price inflation, rising 7 per cent to £1.31 billion.

Mr Michael Julien, the chief executive, said that despite the unsatisfactory result, the year ended on a much stronger note than had appeared likely last summer. He said the work put into "consolidating Storehouse's finances and overhauling the management teams at both group and operating company levels has begun to show through."

At BHS, where profits fell 32

per cent to £27.5 million, sales were 20 per cent higher in the final three months. The problem was now finding enough stock, Mr Julien said.

Group sales, 10 per cent up in the second half after a 4 per cent rise in the opening six months, were continuing to show a "satisfactory improvement" over the previous year.

The group remains liquid with cash up from £113 million to £143 million. Net gearing was cut from 13.3 to 5.7 per cent. The reduction in the total dividend with a final dividend of 2.5p (6.3p) reduces the cost by £15.6 million.

Comment, page 25

Kirk and knight block Sullivan

By OUR CITY STAFF

A BID by Mr David Sullivan, the soft porn publisher, to take control of the Bristol Evening Post newspaper group has been blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said he accepted the commission's recommendation that the deal "may be expected to operate against the public interest."

Mr Sullivan made his fortune - claimed to be more than £60 million - from selling sex aids and soft porn magazines before publishing the *Sunday Sport* newspaper and its twice weekly sister paper, the *Sport*. The papers, renowned for their racy pictures, boast exclusives which include the news that Elvis is alive and well and living on Mars, that there is a Lancaster bomber on the moon and that a double decker

London bus had been discovered at the North Pole.

Mr Sullivan acquired a 7.4 per cent stake in the Bristol Evening Post group in January and announced that he planned to spend a further £9 million to increase his holding to 25 per cent, which is regarded as a controlling interest.

The group, which owns a string of regional newspapers and convenience stores, lobbied intensely against Mr Sullivan's plans, claiming that he would take the papers down market, an accusation that Mr Sullivan denied.

Mr Ridley called in the Monopolies Commission in March and three media representatives were appointed to report on its behalf - Sir Alastair Burnet, the ITN newsreader; Mr Robert Kernohan, former editor of the *Church of Scotland* monthly magazine, *Life and Work*; and Mr Mark Kersen, managing director of the *Wolverhampton Express and Star*.

The three journalists questioned Mr Sullivan for more than four hours.

Yesterday, the normally garrulous Mr Sullivan was refusing to take calls from the Press.

Mr Alan King, acting editor of the Bristol Evening Post, said: "We are obviously delighted that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has supported our view."

Bristol Evening Post shares slumped 17p to 278p.

In its report, the MMC said it had identified as the main public interest issue, the likely effect of the transfer of control of the BEP group on the character and content of its papers.

Mr Sullivan made an attempt to move into local papers when he bought a 5 per cent stake in the Portsmouth and Sunderland group early last year but quickly sold the shares to Associated Newspapers for a profit of £365,000.

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Bae pays £12m for majority stake in Liverpool Airport

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Aerospace has bought a majority stake in Liverpool Airport for £12 million, as it studies the prospects of developing it into a major international airport.

Such a development, which would involve building a second runway and substantially expanding existing facilities, is likely to cost more than £1 billion. BAE envisages a consortium to carry it through.

There are no estimates yet of the economic impact on Merseyside, but a BAE spokesman said: "What we can say for certain is that it would significantly boost the economy of the Merseyside region, with good prospects for new business and employment."

With Manchester Airport already competing for international traffic, Liverpool's development will depend very much on forecast growth of air traffic during the rest of this decade and after, as the air corridors across the South-east become increasingly busy.

But BAE sees the possibility of Liverpool becoming a key gateway, especially for traffic between North America and Europe.

Five Merseyside local au-

thorities that own Liverpool Airport approached BAE for help in assessing its future prospects.

BAE has a specialist subsidiary carrying out this kind of work, but always overseas until now.

BAE said initial studies showed Liverpool Airport was well placed for expansion with its existing road, rail and air corridor networks. Substantial increases in air traffic growth were forecast both for Britain and between Europe and the US but these will be studied more closely.

BAE decided to form a new company, British Aerospace Liverpool Airport (BALA), to acquire 76 per cent of the airport company, the remaining stake staying with the local authorities.

The BAE cash investment will be used mainly to enhance the airport operations.

BALA has also paid a £5 million premium to Liverpool City Council to secure long leases on nearly 1,000 acres of land adjacent to the airport. The land may be needed to provide the necessary room for expansion.

There is already planning

permission for mixed leisure development on 40 of the adjacent acres.

BAE has taken a 49 per cent stake in Kelsay Instruments as part of its strategy of building partnerships with small innovative companies. Kelsay was formed in 1982 at the University of Warwick Science Park in Coventry, producing computer-based destructive testing systems used in the aerospace, automotive and civil engineering industries.

It has developed a dominant position in its specialist field in the UK and is poised to expand internationally. It recently won an order from McDonnell Douglas, the US aircraft manufacturer, to supply a full-scale fatigue test rig for the C-17 aircraft.

Royal Ordnance, part of BAE, has joined France's GIAT Industries and West Germany's Rheinmetall in a co-operation agreement to develop the next generation of tank guns.

The requirement for a new gun has not yet been defined, but the agreement will allow a quick response once future equipment needs are established.

Inflation too high for ERM says Pöhl

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HERR Karl Otto Pöhl, Europe's premier central banker, has thrown his weight behind the view that inflation in Britain is too high to allow the pound early full participation in the European Monetary System.

The Bundesbank president's remarks yesterday helped burst the bubble of euphoria generated by the conviction that the Government was about to put sterling in the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS.

The pound closed 0.4 lower on its trade-weighted index at 89.0, losing ground against the dollar.

Market expectations that Mr John Major, the Chancellor, would take the ERM issue forward during the Paris ministerial meeting of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, went unfulfilled, taking steam out of the London share and money markets.

Herr Pöhl, speaking in Frankfurt, said it had been a "birth defect" of the EMS that the pound was not a full member. He added: "At the moment, the inflation rate in Great Britain is too high for undertaking immediate entry to the ERM."

£42m debut of Babcock Int

ALAN WELLS



Erik Porter, left, Babcock's finance director, with Oliver Whitehead yesterday

By JEREMY ANDREWS

BABCOCK International, the power station boiler-maker and process plant contractor, has made its debut on the London stock exchange.

Spun off from FKI Babcock last July, made pre-tax profits of £42.6 million on turnover of £624 million in the year to March. Although no comparative figures are available, the chairman, Lord King of Wartnaby, said: "We have delivered what we said we

would deliver and are in good shape for the future."

After a 24 per cent tax charge, which Babcock admitted would rise in the current year, earnings per share emerged at 6.53p. The final dividend of 1.8p makes 3p.

The energy and manufacturing operations, based at Renshaw, made operating profits of £9.4 million (£12.5 million) and were overtaken by facilities management,

whose contribution rose from £8.3 million to £10.3 million.

Mr Oliver Whitehead, chief executive, said that Babcock was keen to expand the facilities management side, which, jointly with Thorn EMI, runs the Renshaw dockyard for the Royal Navy. Babcock was tendering to run the Aldermaston atomic weapons research establishment.

Times, page 25

Fairhaven puts \$10m into 3-D business

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FAIRHAVEN International, the USM-quoted specialist in the oil, gas and petro-chemical construction industries, is putting \$10 million into a 3-D camera business that has cost the company and its US backers \$100 million over the past decade.

Through a wholly owned subsidiary, it has agreed to acquire an 18 per cent interest in two US firms, American 3-D and Nishika Ltd, and a Hong Kong company, Nishika Manufacturing, all controlled by Mr Jim Bainbridge, the American entrepreneur.

The Nishika group is engaged in the manufacture, sales, promotion, research and development of 3-D photographic technology, which it took over four years ago under licence from Nimslo International, which subsequently became Fairhaven in a reverse takeover in 1988.

Nimslo invested heavily in 3-D technology with a view to enhancing the success of the Polaroid camera a generation earlier. But financial difficulties led to Mr Fred Olsen, the Norwegian shipping magnate, acquiring 86 per cent of the company as part of a recovery plan.

Fairhaven will now pay \$6 million cash and make a further \$4 million available under the terms of a five-year promissory note bearing interest at 2 per cent above Citicorp's prime rate, for its 18 per cent interest in the Nishika Group. It has an option on doubling its interest before May 31, 1991.

It will, this year and next, receive the first \$1.8 million of profit generated by Nishika. Nishika's owners will, as a capital contribution, transfer to the 3-D business \$14 million of debt which the business owes them.

Mr James Davidson, the Fairhaven chairman, underlined that his company was not trying to recapture the 3-D business. He said it was in Fairhaven's interest to protect its royalties by giving the 3-D business a "push". Fairhaven will take no part in the day-to-day management of Nishika.

The 3-D camera was launched in the US and Canada a year ago and is next scheduled for introduction on the British market.

Greenwald to lead union buyout of UA

UNITED Airlines unions have chosen Mr Gerald Greenwald, vice chairman of Chrysler, to lead a \$4.4 billion buyout of the airline.

Wall Street greeted the appointment favourably, with the UA share price gaining \$5.

Mr Greenwald, who left Chrysler despite widespread predictions that he would take over from Mr Lee Iacocca, the company chairman, in October next year, said: "I was approached at the right time and with the right challenge."

The unions are expected to seek an airline executive to take the number two post.

The union team, approved by the UA board earlier this year, faces a difficult task in finding finance for its \$4.4 billion takeover in an environment where banks have grown wary of leveraged buyouts.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Brown Shipley up to £7.5m after reshuffle

BROWN Shipley Holdings, the merchant bank, food manager and owner of four stockbroking firms, shows total assets of £918.7 million at March 31, up from £813.3 million a year earlier, and reports pre-tax profit of £7.5 million, against £1.73 million. The profit advance follows rationalization and restructuring, but the group says that, because of high interest rates, it takes only a "cautious" view of the year ahead. The high rates and low UK growth will affect the merchant banking and stockbroking businesses, it says. A final dividend of 7.5p (6.5p), payable on August 3, makes 12p (10.5p) for the year. The shares fell 4p to 31p.

Brown Shipley says that its treasury department returned to profitability, and that all four stockbroking firms "made good profits" in market conditions in which many competitors were unable to operate profitably. Higher profits were also made from merchant banking and insurance broking.

Sleepy Kids in £17,000 loss No dividend from Expedier

SLEEPY Kids, the company floated on the Third Market last July to exploit cartoon characters on television, lost £17,000 before tax in the 29 weeks to January because of a delay in the confirmation of schedules for Foxworth & Co. to be screened in Britain and the US. The company said it still expected to attain pre-tax profits of £176,000 in the 12 months to July 1990.

EXPEDIER Leisure, transformed by Mr David Wilkins, the former British Car Auctions chairman, from the Scanro surfboard business into a corporate hospitality specialist, says past losses prevented it paying a dividend on its 7.75 per cent convertible preference shares. It is seeking permission to write off the accumulated losses against the share premium account.

Doctus profit up 28%

DOCTUS, the management consultancy group which recently signed a £2.6 billion contract spread over 15 years to export minerals and timber from the Siberian region of Tomsk in the Soviet Union, reports a 28.6 per cent interim pre-tax profit rise to £4.1 million. Turnover was £58.4 million (£58.4 million) and the interim dividend rises to 0.78p (0.65p). The group forecasts a profitable second half. Mr Brian Blake, chairman, says a programme of selling surplus assets to reduce borrowings has started. In the six months ended March 31, interest payable by Doctus rose from £970,000 to £2.74 million. The shares rose 1p to 137p.

Macdonald in leap to £5.5m TSB offshoot is 33% ahead

MACDONALD Martin Disillier's taxable profits rose to £5.53 million in the year to March 31 — a 47 per cent increase on the preceding 15 months. The group is effectively lifting its total dividends by 33 per cent, to 32p on the A shares and 16p on the B. Earnings per share rose by 23 per cent in both classes, to 131.7p on the A and 65.85p on the B.

TSB Bank Channel Islands, the quoted offshoot of the TSB Group, saw a 33.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.55 million in the half-year to end April. Total income climbed 35.4 per cent to £10.1 million. The interim dividend is 2.76p up from 2.4p, after earnings of 11.85p (9.15p). Both local and offshore high-interest account balances grew, with a total rise of 26 per cent.

Profits at Sidlaw slip

SIDLAW Group, the packaging, oil services and textile company, reports a slide in pre-tax profits from £3.2 million to £2.83 million in the six months to end-March. This follows reorganization of the packaging division and a downturn at the textiles division. Group turnover climbed by 7.5 per cent to £30.1 million. Earnings per share slip from 7.7p to 7.0p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 3.0p. Trading profits from oil services fell by 18.6 per cent to £1.5 million, on turnover ahead by 9.4 per cent to 11.9 million, after a difficult first half, although the company believes it is now in good shape at a time when the sector is entering a period of higher activity.

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Michael Julien plays the joker

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Habitat may no longer be big in kitchen sinks, but the board of Storehouse still believes in them. Results for the year to March 31 are a real "kitchen sink" job. Everything that could be written off or written down has been provided for. Stock which has been gathering dust for years in the back of BHS stores has been dragged out and disposed of, marginal Habitat units have been closed, staff numbers have been cut and Mothercare has been returned to its mother, baby and toddler role.

It all suggests that Michael Julien, the chief executive of Storehouse, is no longer peering so anxiously over his shoulder. He has had the courage to cut the dividend and the stock market rewarded him by lifting the share price on a day when most shares were going nowhere. Every new chief executive of an ailing company gets one chance to suggest, through the kind of action which Julien has initiated in the latest account, that the previous management had made a number of errors which need drastic action to correct. After

that, the chance to blame the present situation on the previous management, even by implication, is gone. Julien is wise enough to know the form, and that he has played the joker this year suggests Storehouse is really on the mend.

Most of the numbers for 1989/90 suggest otherwise. BHS profit was down, Habitat was into a loss, Mothercare profits halved and the only really bright spot was doubled profits from Richards, which not long ago was up for sale. The store clearing knocked a couple of points off margins which were already under pressure from rising costs.

The numbers do not tell the full story. In the final quarter, for instance, BHS sales were 20 per cent higher than in 1989. Whether they were a swallow or the beginning of a long hot summer not even Storehouse can tell, but the effects of operational gearing on a group like BHS with high fixed costs should not be

overlooked. Mothercare is retreating from its weaknesses into its strengths and Habitat is pulling out of unsuitable locations and looking to the quality of its offering. Cost increases in the current year are likely to be within 5 per cent, after rises of 16 per cent and 10 per cent in the past two years.

In a decent retail environment, Storehouse would be back on the road. Julien has applied the axe where it needed to fall, and the bleeding has stopped.

The story, however, cannot end there. In the squeezed conditions of the retail business, it is likely to take more than cost-cutting competence to get reasonable profits from expensive floorspace. Storehouse needs

to entice more customers through the door and, even more importantly, to persuade them to spend greater amounts once they are inside. To some extent, the latter should be achieved by an improving "out-of-stock" record, but Storehouse has yet to demonstrate the new team has retailing flair to set alongside its sound management practices.

The encouraging thing is that the problem is at least identified.

Cheap Gas

If you want to know what will happen to British Gas profits this year, ask Ladbrokes. Their betting wizards are as well placed as any to guessimate the odds

against a third extremely mild winter in a row. After the warmest winter for 100 years in 1988/9 followed by the mildest for 300 years, even the most occasional of betting men would expect a more normal level of ice and frost this year. If so, British Gas is in for a substantial leap in net income from £926 million to around £1.2 billion. And on all the usual fundamentals, that makes British Gas shares look almost absurdly cheap.

Yesterday's 16.7 per cent rise in dividend is merely one indicator. It was clear from the board that the rise is part of a medium term plan for a sustainable series of increases over the next few years, with the objective of reducing the payout ratio.

Increases of the order of 15 per cent look likely for several years and more if overdue hard winters emerge. That puts in the shade the kind of dividend growth expected from the other energy

major, Shell and BP, in the immediate future. Moreover, it far outstrips likely dividend growth across the rest of the London equity market, too.

Yet British Gas is already offering its long term shareholders a prospective yield of 7.6 per cent, close on a 40 per cent premium to the market as a whole. In earnings terms, the shares also look attractive. On "normal" winter profits of £1.2 billion they trade on a prospective earnings multiple of 7.7. Financially, the group is strong, with an almost embarrassingly low gearing level of 13 per cent. True, this rises to 25 per cent if the purchase of Canada's largest gas distributor clears all its regulatory hurdles. But there is a great deal of muscle available for further expansion.

There are, of course, snags — three of them. Fears of global warming, which will persist until fund managers wake up one morning to snow-covered drives, the Ofgas pricing review, and vague fears of nastiness under a Labour Government. But if ever a share looked a good long term investment it is British Gas.

MARCUS SIEFF ON MANAGEMENT

Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £15

THE once-fashionable asset strippers have had their own assets stripped. Niche marketers have been falling out of their niches. Meanwhile, Marks and Spencer, like its food and its clothing, has, for as long as we can all remember, been judged consistently excellent by managers and shoppers alike.

How have they done it and what can the rest of us learn from the experience? Two factors associated with the firm — a devotion to quality and a commitment to the workforce — figure prominently in *Marcus Sieff on Management*. Following his memoirs, this second book widens the canvas to offer advice on applying the lessons to other organizations. Yet the book's subtitle — *The Marks and Spencer Way* — is a better guide to what the reader will find. In the combination of M&S anecdote and hints for managers, even the hints are supported by company examples.

As the fourth member of the founding family to take the helm of the good ship M&S — and now its life president — Lord Sieff makes it clear where not only his head, but also his heart lies: "Good human relations, so essential for successful and progressive business, depend on the understanding of their importance and the genuine feeling for them by those who lead."

So while the commitment to quality is unshakable, there is an almost evangelical belief in the value of good employee relations. It is not just the firm, but the individual and Society that stand to benefit. Indeed, the identification of the company with the common interest is so great that the text often moves effortlessly from strategy for the UK to details of how M&S puts its own world to rights.

Nor is this the only example of why this is a management book of a delightfully different kind. There is none of the tedious over-excitement of the "Make \$5 million in five minutes!" school of management writing, nor the mea-

Chapter and verse of management the M&S way



Lord Sieff: "a kindly uncle handing out advice"

sured tones of the "Professor Rosenzweig H. Gunderman on Human Relations" textbook. It is rather an evening with a kindly and concerned uncle handing out advice to a favoured nephew, not forgetting a touch of the Samuel Smiles.

The nephew, brash enough to think this is all a bit old-fashioned ("access to typewriters today is not difficult"), would be wise to understand that beneath the measured

charm, there are important lessons of substance. Those interested in what the Japanese can teach us will be struck by parallels to the M&S way.

The company has been generous indeed in helping others, including suppliers and the government, with ideas on better management. However, the lessons will not be, indeed could not be, relevant to all potential readers. Marks and Spencer is not a small company; not in

manufacturing; not highly diversified; and, until recently, had a chequered history in its attempts to expand outside the UK. So the advice will have to be sifted.

Furthermore, although the blurb tells us that the book gives practical advice on "how to start your own business, how to climb the corporate ladder and how to be an effective chairman/chief executive" (all for £15), the audience is indeterminate. Some of the advice, too, betrays the fact that the author has devoted his working life to a very particular kind of business — one which has many of the best attributes of a family enterprise with a strong and distinctive corporate culture. Some of the non-M&S examples are, therefore, interesting rather than conclusive and some of the statements will bring a rueful (and envious) smile to the aspiring entrepreneur or perishing middle manager of a rather different kind of business.

As well as being entertaining and an easy read — all too rare in management literature — the book is practical and down-to-earth. As an example, there is a delightful story about company social responsibility. After discussing the money which M&S puts into more conventional community projects, Lord Sieff tells how he noticed the continued cleanliness of a building site at Hyde Park Corner. He dropped in unannounced, was shown round, wrote to commend what he saw to the director of the construction firm and quotes it here as an example of what firms can do for the rest of us.

So there you have it. Backing your rhetoric does not just mean helping the inner cities, good employee relations and good products. It also means keeping your building sites clean. It is good for Society, the staff and the bottom line. Quality in one aspect breeds quality in another. Which is why this reviewer can now turn confidently to his M&S lunch.

Andrew Likierman
Professor, London
Business School

TEMPUS

Thorn-EMI waits to light up

FOR a group strongly committed to the strategy of focusing on few businesses with world market positions, Thorn-EMI remains much more difficult for the market to place than, say, Cadbury-Schweppes. It is unlikely to become much easier this year.

Almost half the turnover was overseas in the year to end-March, against 40 per cent three years ago. But British market troubles still hurt hard. They ensured a slowdown in growth in the rental business, which accounts for half group profits, despite continuing high growth in the US. There were also problems for lighting in Britain and continuing losses from Rumbelows.

By contrast, the music business — 27 per cent of pre-tax profits — surged by 66 per cent. Here the group is riding individual success with a strong world position in a growing market.

Overall, pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £318 million and eps by 9 per cent to 66.1p (fully diluted). On that basis, the shares at 734p sell at 11.1 times earnings and the dividend yield is 5.4 per cent.

The prospects are inevitably muddy since about a fifth of profits are either up for sale — lighting, US defence, 28 per cent of Thames Television — or available for an offer.

Of these, lighting is the most crucial, in size and for credibility. Twelve months ago, this was a core business whose forward looking "total lighting solutions" strategy was creating "immense potential." Now it is on the block because low-cost lightbulb production needs more economies of scale.

Depending on sales, sale prices and reinvestment, the shares may sell at about 10 times prospective earnings. This could prove cheap for the main businesses, but sceptics still have much to doubt.

Babcock Int

BABCOCK'S overdependence on power station orders made it vulnerable to FKT's bid in 1987. However, the freshly-demerged Babcock International now no longer relies on making power station boilers and fuel gas desulphurisation equipment for the bulk of its profits.

The new company has reported pre-tax profits of £42.6 million for the 12 months to March, in line with brokers' expectations at the time of the merger last July.

But, within that, the contribution to operating profits from the power side fell £3 million to £9.4 million, leaving facilities management, at £10.3 million, Babcock's biggest money-spinner.

So far, this business consists solely of its seven-year joint contract with Thorn EMI to manage the Royal Naval Dockyard at Rosyth, Fife, from which profits have doubled in two years.

But Babcock has plans to expand it and is bidding against Hunting for the contract to manage Aldermaston, Berkshire, where the Government is building nuclear warheads for the Trident missile programme.

The glee with which Babcock is turning itself into a defence contractor speaks volumes about how difficult the power station business has been for the past 15 years.

Taxable profits of £45 million and earnings of 7p this time would leave the shares, at 53p, on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 8.

But the historic yield of 7½ per cent will be the main prop for the shares while the uncertainty about the timing and size of orders from the electricity industry continues to hold away over sentiment.

M&G Group

THE M&G Group continues to hold its asset base — and its share price — well above water and, considering the roller-coaster ride of stock markets, has produced some creditable interim figures to end-March. Net worth is 107.3p (97.2p)

a share, pre-tax profits were £17.6 million (£12.3 million last year and £17.7 million in the preceding half).

Funds under management between end-September and end-March only slipped from £7.9 billion to £7.8 billion during a period when the market eased by 4.67 per cent.

The interim dividend is raised to 7.5p (4.5p) to reduce the disparity between payments and a final of at least 9p (8p) is indicated.

The buoyancy of stock markets and the health of the investment climate will dictate how the second half turns out, but the £2.55 million transfer from assurance activities is again likely to be less than half the year's outcome, so year-on-year profits growth should still be encouraging. Net sales of unit trusts remained positive — though at a net £76 million compared with £98 million last year — but the lure of high interest rates has seen unit sales disappointing so far in the second half.

Though the embedded valuation debate remains controversial, M&G could undoubtedly sport a net worth of at least as high as 550p, which puts into perspective the p/e of 13.9 which is based on forecasts of at least £36 million (£30.1 million).

The shares were 16p higher at 445p and still rate a hold.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bricks and mortar Vestey

EDMUND Vestey, thought to be the seventh richest man in Britain — together with Lord Vestey, his cousin, he runs Western United Investment Company, the family empire which, among much else, owns the Dewhurst butchers chain — has put his hand into his own pocket to help young couples in his local community put their foot on the first rung of the housing ladder. With house prices in the Essex village of Ashdon inflated by City commuters, Vestey, aged 57, has been instrumental in devising a scheme which will ensure starter homes for young buyers. And he has handed over an acre of his own land, on the edge of the village, so that 10 terraced houses could be built. His gift of the land has meant that the houses, now built, have been sold at 64 per cent of their market value. And those sales are on condition that when the original purchasers move on, they, in turn, will only be able to sell the properties at 64 per cent of the then market value. "The land was only worth about £2,500, since under normal circumstances I wouldn't have been able to get planning permission on it," says Vestey, with characteristic modesty. "But I'm very glad from the village's point of view that it has worked." Vestey, who lived in the village for 30 years, moved 10 miles up the road 18 months

ago, handing over his family home to his son. "I'm now trying to do something similar in the village I now live in, where I also own land, but we're having problems finding an acceptable site," Vestey reveals.

Ibbotson rides out

THERE was not a single dry eye among Liverpool's stockbroking fraternity last night as Don Ibbotson — otherwise known affectionately as either "the jockey," because of his small stature, or "spanner" — finally turned off his Topic screen and, at the age of 60, retired. A native scouser and keen Everton supporter, Ibbotson was hugely popular among fellow "country brokers" and had run the Liverpool office of UBS Phillips & Drew for the past five years — ever since the Liverpool gits jobber Mouldale merged with P&D and

John Woolfenden, its erstwhile senior partner, moved south to become group compliance officer at UBS's head office. Ibbotson, who will be replaced in his duties by Ralph Osborne, also once a Mouldale partner, landed his first broking job with Ralph Bustard & Co when he was 16. Confirming that stockbroking and the sport of kings really do have much in common, one long-time friend informs me that Ibbotson's father was a local bookmaker. "And Ibbotson junior has always been a part-time bookie," my informant confirms. "He will always lay odds on a horse — and usually he wins."

Hilfe ambassador

NOT to be outdone by the news that Dr Zsigmond Jari, the Hungarian deputy finance minister, had joined James Cape's Eastern European development department, Hilfe, the independent research house — created 18 months ago by Nick Hill, aged 31, previously employed as an analyst by Robert Maxwell — has scored something of a coup of its own. It has signed Peter Maxey, former British ambassador to Berlin, to head its Eastern European economic and company news information service. Maxey, aged 59 and stationed in Berlin from 1979 until 1982, has already started establishing his own team of specialist researchers. "No one expected Eastern Europe to topple over as easily as it did," says

Maxey, a lover of baroque flute music, who went on to serve at the United Nations after his spell in the East. "But even in those days, when I was in Berlin, people were taking refuge in embassies, and rushing in through the doors demanding visas." Hilfe's clients, who already include the four top Japanese securities firms, are presumably well aware of the fact that "Hilfe" in German means "help."

Carr returns

AFTER a prolonged spell out in the cold — doing corporate finance work for industrial holdings group Thomson T-Line, and then selling Personal Equity Plans for a Dutch company — one-time Messel partner Jonathan Carr is returning to the heart of the Square Mile. Today, he starts a new job as head of UK equity sales at Bell Lawrie, the firm's Tokenhouse Yard offices, which boasts Czernosew as its blue-blooded neighbour. Carr, whose family fortune was made from the famous water biscuits of the same name, will find himself among familiar faces when he arrives. Bell Lawrie's employees include a number of ex-Messel men, well known to him, such as Chris Radmore who now works in its smaller companies team.

SIGN in a Dublin cafe: "Don't complain about our coffee — you too could be old and weak one day."

Carol Leonard

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WALL STREET

Copies of the Company's Annual Report to shareholders may be obtained by writing to the Company Secretary.

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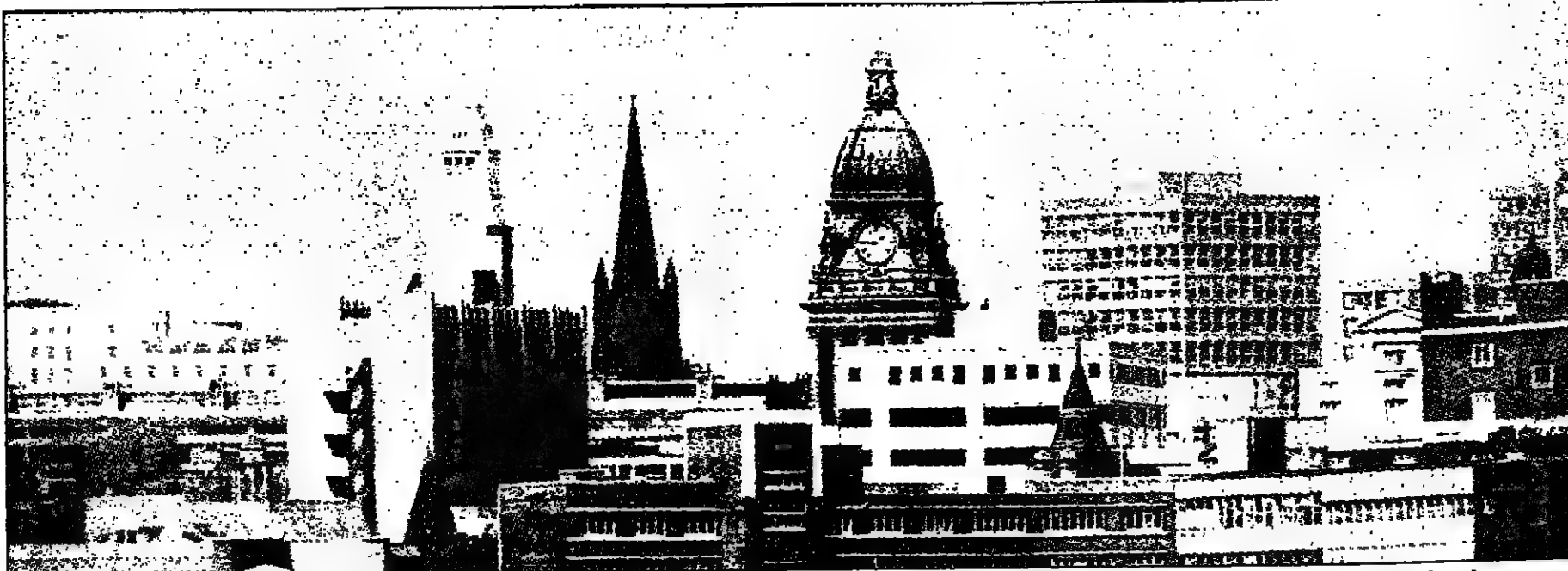
FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
by Peter Davenport

Towns and cities with less muck than brass

PICTURES BY GUZELIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The industries of coal mining, heavy engineering and textiles, which gave Yorkshire its grimy image, are gradually giving way to banks, firms of lawyers and other cleaner enterprises



The city with a changing shape: today the skyline of Leeds is a mixture of old spires and domes and the monolithic buildings of late-20th-century service industries

The old Yorkshire saying, "Where there's muck, there's brass", was based on the fact that much of the county's wealth was created by dirty industries, such as coal mining and heavy engineering, which took a heavy toll of their workers and the environment. Today the financial glitter is even brighter, and there is an air of bristling confidence in many of the ancient towns and cities as they take on a changing role.

The Yorkshire and Humber Development Association says the area has become the most important financial centre outside London. At its heart is the vibrant West Yorkshire region, its largest conurbation, with a population of 2,053,000 spread mainly among the urban centres of Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Wakefield and Halifax.

Textiles and clothing were once its staple products, but now, though still important, they form a less significant and dominant part of a diverse and developing economy, including national and international companies and a range of manufacturing, distribution and service industries.

Large developments are either under way or planned. Bradford has changed its decaying image and is to receive £1 billion worth of investment during the 1990s. Wakefield has secured a huge Japanese manufacturing investment. Calderdale is cited internationally by the Prince of Wales as an example of successful urban regeneration. Industrial, office and shop schemes are under way and planned in the Kirklees area around Huddersfield.

However, the most dramatic change is perhaps in Leeds, now said to be the fastest-growing com-

mercial centre outside London. The transformation is having spin-off effects on the professions, the demand for property, both commercial and residential, and the creation of new jobs. The city is the base for 27 banks, seven merchant banks, 22 building societies and 127 insurance societies and financial institutions, together providing 30,000 jobs. Just along the road, Halifax has the headquarters of the world's largest building society, which takes its name from the town where it was founded in 1853. The Halifax, with assets of more than £47 billion, is one of West Yorkshire's biggest employers, and is expanding.

Three of the high street banks have recently set up retail processing operations in Leeds, a further testimony to its increasingly prominent national position. National Westminster has brought in Switch, Barclays Connect, and Midland First Direct.

The banks have also stimulated growth in the associated professional services. Six leading legal firms, the greatest concentration outside the capital, are based in Leeds. The transformation from textile centre to financial hub is nowhere better illustrated than in the new £10 million purpose-built offices being constructed for the leading firm of business lawyers, Walker Morris Scott Turnbull, which is near the reputed site of the old Coloured Cloth Hall, where merchants once traded.

More than 350,000 people work in the Leeds commuting area, which contains 12,000 companies. An increasing number of national and international businesses are opening new or regional headquarters in the city.

Large private-sector businesses

include Asda, the supermarket group and the city's biggest company with a turnover of £3 billion a year; Yorkshire Television; Yorkshire Bank; John Waddington, Vickers Defence Systems; and Du Pont Howson - created by Du Pont's acquisition of the Leeds

city council describes as "an almost insatiable demand" for high-quality accommodation. Estate agents report that institutional investors will pay more than £20 a sq ft for office space. Demand is so high that new developments are reaching the

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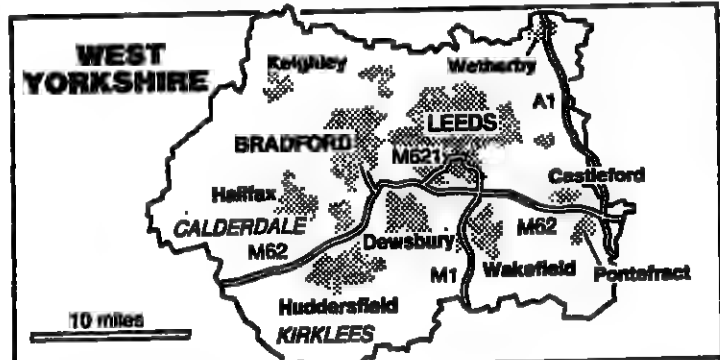
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based print-industry leader, Howson Alagrophy - which has annual sales of £375 million and 3,500 staff in Britain and abroad.

The city's transformation is marked by the towering cranes on the skyline, a huge increase in office development and what the

market either pre-let or sold before completion. About £1 billion is being invested in 70 development projects, which are expected to create 12,000 new jobs in the early 1990s. Even hard-headed locals do not flinch at the description "boom city".

John Richardson, a director of Lloyds Merchant Bank, says the main reason for the rapid development of Leeds as a financial centre is the region's broad and expanding industrial base. He says: "The diversity of the local industry helped to spread the load during the more depressed times and, in later relative boom times,

helped to accelerate expansion." Leeds, with a population of 700,000, is England's fourth biggest city, and 11 million people live within an hour's drive. An employment analysis shows the service sector in Leeds provides 67 per cent of the jobs, followed by manufacturing with 25 per cent and construction with 8 per cent. It was this mix of industry that enabled Leeds to survive the recession, and the city council has devised a strategy to rekindle manufacturing and engineering.

The M1 and M62 are half a mile from Leeds city centre, the Humber ports are 55 miles away, and electrification of the east-coast main line will soon cut the London journey to 105 minutes.

The region has its own airport, Leeds-Bradford, although flying is forbidden at night, a cause of some concern among local businessmen. Paul Long, a partner in Grimley J.R. Eve (Leeds), a leading firm of surveyors, warns: "The city cannot simply wait for continued success. Communication links must be improved. While there have been considerable improvements recently to Leeds-Bradford Airport, the re-

gion cannot compete effectively with Manchester unless the operating restrictions are lifted and considerable investment is made raising it to international standard."

West Yorkshire has first-class higher education establishments, consisting of a host of colleges and polytechnics and the universities at Leeds and Bradford.

The arrival of the single European market holds both opportunities and dangers for West Yorkshire. The local authorities of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield recently published a study ordered from the European Commission's own consultants on the likely impact. The study compared West Yorkshire with regions in France, West Germany, Belgium, England and Scotland and warned that though the region was well placed to compete with Britain's other traditionally industrial regions, it may lose out to European competitors after 1992.

The authorities are determined to take action to prevent this and ensure that the region's hard-won success is not sacrificed on the altar of closer European unity.

The new Playhouse carries on a centuries-old theatrical tradition

Drama on the hill

The doors of the new West Yorkshire Playhouse, the largest theatre outside London and the last repertory theatre to be built this century, opened in March to wide acclaim. The £13.5 million building, faced in red and buff-coloured brick on Quarry Hill, near Leeds centre, carries on a theatrical tradition more than two centuries old.

The city's first theatre was opened in 1771, but was unpopular with actors and public alike for its generous, but ill-advised, policy of letting in "rowdy youths" at half price after the third act.

The new Playhouse is the first theatre of its kind, with two complementary auditoriums, the Quarry Theatre and the flexible Courtyard Theatre, incorporating the latest technical innovations and comprehensive production facilities.

It is seen not just as a regional asset benefiting the four million people living within a 40-minute drive, but as a national possession.

The events that led to the creation of the new Playhouse began back in 1964 when 13 enthusiasts met in a private house to start a fund-raising campaign to build a repertory theatre. Leeds University offered them a temporary site on condition that the building could be used afterwards as a sports hall.

Leeds Playhouse was opened in December 1970 and it took a further 20 years for the company to move into its permanent home.

In 1984, the city council earmarked the Quarry Hill site for the new Playhouse, and the Leeds Theatre Trust, under the chairmanship of Bernard Atha, city councillor, barrister and former ballet dancer, began raising money.

A large contributor was the city council, which allocated £5.4 million. The now-defunct West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council invested £4 million and funded the initial architectural competition. The Arts Council and incentive fundings provided another £1 million.

The theatre has to raise £1

million in capital sponsorship from the public, commerce and industry. The balance has come from the sale of assets and smaller grants and donations.

The competition to design the theatre was won by the Edinburgh-based, husband-and-wife partnership, Ian and Marjorie Appleton. Their creation is a striking and dramatic architectural focus for the centre of Leeds.

The new theatre is the jewel in the crown of West Yorkshire's enviable arts and cultural facilities, which include theatres, art galleries and museums.

Among other attractions are the Alhambra Theatre at Bradford, the subject of an extensive £8 million renovation programme, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield, and Bradford's National Museum of Photography, Film and Television.

The Victoria & Albert Museum also intends to open its northern branch in Bradford as part of a £70 million proposal to redevelop the Italianate-style Manningham Mill, formerly the world's largest silk mill.



Centre stage: Jude Kelly, artistic director at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, an architectural and cultural focus for the city of Leeds

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Back with a billion

When Bradford came to be regarded in the mid-1980s as a gloomy, depressed and clove-capped northern city, it decided to begin its fight for a better future under the slogan, "Bradford's Bouncing Back". Today, at the opening of a new decade, that slogan is outdated. Bradford is on the rebound. Business confidence is high, the image has improved dramatically and the city is on the verge of a £1 billion development boom.

The local newspaper, the *Telegraph and Argus*, produced a supplement to give its readers a vision of their city of the future and published a message for all those who doubted its ability to achieve so impressive a recovery. "For those sceptics who laughed at the Bradford Bouncing Back campaign, the message is now clear," it said. "This splendid city is on the move - and fast."

That renewed air of gritty confidence is echoed elsewhere among the leaders of a community that determined not to accept a fate that so many seemed to have expected for the city. Up to 15,000 jobs are likely to be created by developments during the 1990s.

Bradford used to be in the doldrums. Now the city is on the verge of a boom and confidence is high once again

Donald Woodcock, the director of Bradford's chamber of commerce, says: "If you cannot shout for your own city, who can you shout for? But, after saying that, and being as honest as I can, there is a general air of renewed confidence here, largely due to the vastly improved image of the city compared with a few years ago when it was perceived from the outside as decaying, depressed and with racial problems."

"It was not true, of course, and we knew it. Now we have been proved right and the future is bright. The business opportunities are there and there is a lot of entrepreneurial effort and expertise around that has always existed."

Mike Short, co-ordinator of the city council's Enterprise Service, formerly the Economic Development Unit, reinforces the message. "Bradford," he says, "is seeing a massive financial vote of confidence, to the tune of £1 billion, the largest amount of money coming into the city

since Victorian times. The new industries, tourism, retailing, electronics and professional services are leading the way in the boom, making Bradford attractive to investors and employers."

Such comments can now be made thanks to the success of an audacious twin-track approach to regeneration. The decision to market Bradford as a tourist destination caused many a raised eyebrow when it was launched. It followed a decade during which the city seemed to stagnate after the last great shops and offices building boom of the 1970s.

Last year, nine years after the launch of the tourism programme, the city had six million visitors, lured by the surrounding countryside, the Brontës at Haworth, the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, the renovated Alhambra Theatre and other attractions. The Victoria & Albert Museum intends to establish a northern

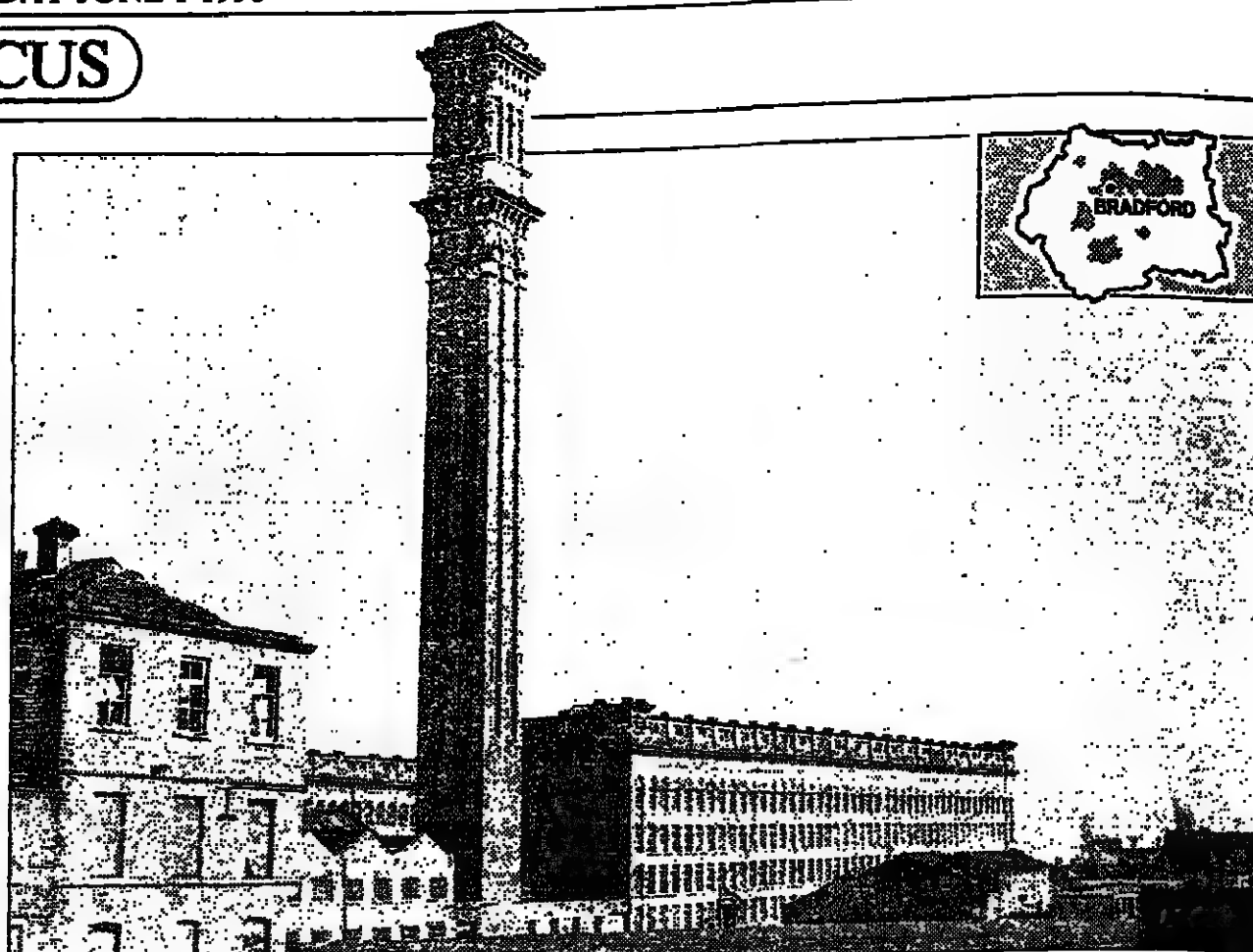
base in the £70 million redevelopment of Manningham Mill, once the world's biggest silk mill.

It became an industry in itself but there was always a more serious purpose to the marketing than that. The new image brought new respect from the City and financial institutions. Modern industries and record investments have followed.

Although the wool and textile sector has diminished in scale, it is still an important factor in the city's industrial base, which now also includes engineering, a dramatically increased chemicals section, printing, hi-tech plants, mail-order businesses and a developing services base.

One of the flagship schemes for the city, which Labour regained from Tory control in last month's elections, is the £180 million West End development, headed by the Leeds-based 3-D company and due to transform the area around the photography museum and the Alhambra into a huge leisure complex.

A further £200 million to improve the city's infrastructure is coming from the European Community and the city council is working in partnership with Chase Advanced Technologies, a local devel-



Manningham, once the biggest silk mill in the world: the V & A Museum is to establish a northern base here

oper, to create a £25 million computer village, already nicknamed Yorkshire's Silicon Dale.

The 27-acre site, near the city centre, is believed to be the first in Europe comprising a software village, advanced manufacturing units and a conference centre.

If there is one specific area

of Bradford that exemplifies the bounce back, it is the former merchants' quarter known as Little Germany. It managed to escape the ravages of mid-1960s city-centre redevelopment, but the decline of the textile industry left many of the architecturally distinct buildings empty.

A property survey con-

ducted in 1987 revealed that the 88 buildings in the quarter had more than 1.25 million sq ft of floor space and although three-quarters were in use, many were only partly occupied. More than 50 of the buildings were listed as being of architectural or historical significance and protected from demolition.

The area is now being refurbished and revitalized. The schemes include a design exchange, costing £2.7 million, to be housed in three imposing Victorian stone buildings overlooking Festival Square in the heart of Little Germany, as well as other artistic, business and cultural developments.

The Pioneer city grows

FEW towns and cities have Wakefield's advantages to attract investment and industry. The city is at the intersection of the M1, M62 and A1, and its strategic location is proving an important factor in its success in the industrial property market and in attracting new companies and jobs to create a diverse, modern economy in the wake of the decline in the area's coal industry.

The motorway network offers easy access to the ports at Liverpool and Hull and brings the airports of Manchester and Leeds-Bradford within easy reach.

The location was an important element in the decision, announced earlier this year, of Japan's Pioneer Electronic Corporation to build its first British manufacturing plant at a cost of £20 million. The company was keen to establish a new plant in

Europe in the run-up to the single European market and Wakefield fought off intense competition from other areas of Britain and cities in Europe.

When Pioneer selected a 30-acre site, near junction 31 of the M62 at Castleford, it gave as its reasons the readiness of component suppliers, an available work-force, and the communications network.

Construction of the 126,000 sq ft building began in April, and the first phase of development, scheduled to begin next May, will create 500 jobs. The plant will produce 10,000 compact disc players a month, increasing to 30,000 by 1994.

The second phase will introduce the production of laser disc players, stereo components and car stereos, creating the potential to increase the work-force to 1,200.

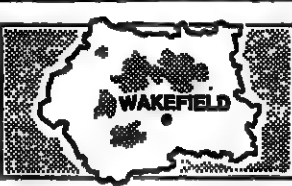
Pioneer says the Wakefield factory will eventually become

its biggest manufacturing plant in the world.

Paul Richards, the marketing director of the Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association, says it will greatly enhance the region as a location for Japanese investment. When Nissan went to the North-east, it acted as a magnet for a score of other Far Eastern companies that set up in its wake.

Pioneer's decision was followed by an announcement that Nippon Seiko KK, Japan's leading bearing manufacturer, had acquired the Ferrybridge-based United Precision Industries as part of a £145 million deal.

Engineering, textiles and clothing have been the big employers over the years, but employment in the distribution trade has shown a marked growth. A number of large food and soft drinks manu-



turing companies have recently opened in the area.

Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages began production last year at its new £50 million plant on the Wakefield 41 Industrial Estate. In the same year, Rank Hovis McDougall Ingredients opened an £11.4 million production and sales headquarters in Wakefield.

The city of Wakefield is thought to have its origins in Saxon times, but it first came to prominence in the War of the Roses when Richard of York waged battle with the Lancastrian forces at nearby Sandal Castle in 1460, losing the fight and his head.

The modern city of Wakefield is determined that it will not fall in the economic battle for a secure future.

Place of pride for a royal

The Calderdale Partnership has won princely praise in the US and even Paris

The Prince of Wales was unstinting in his praise of the people of Calderdale, a valley beneath the brooding Pennines, to bring about their own economic and social regeneration. In the foreword to a booklet describing the public-private sector initiative, called the Calderdale Partnership, in which his own Business in the Community organization has taken an important role, he says he has extolled its virtues in Britain, across the United States and even, in French, in Paris.

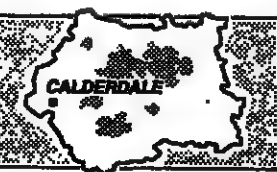
"Calderdale has become a model for other areas and has given birth to a process, which will, I hope, be duplicated elsewhere over the next decade," he writes.

The area came into operational existence in 1974 under local government reorganization. As the most rural of England's 36 metropolitan districts, it has Halifax as its main town, accounting for half of its still-growing population of 195,800 and covers 140 square miles of Pennine moorland and valleys.

Traditionally it earned its living from making machine tools, carpets and textiles, but it staggered into the 1980s beset by redundancy, closures, despair and attendant dereliction, a condition made all the worse by Halifax's reputation at the turn of the century as the world's richest town.

The depression appeared to culminate in the closure of the Crossley Carpet mill, an enterprise that dominated the skyline and the economy of Halifax for years. At its height, it employed 5,000 people, but only a tenth of that number were on the payroll when the machines fell silent in 1982.

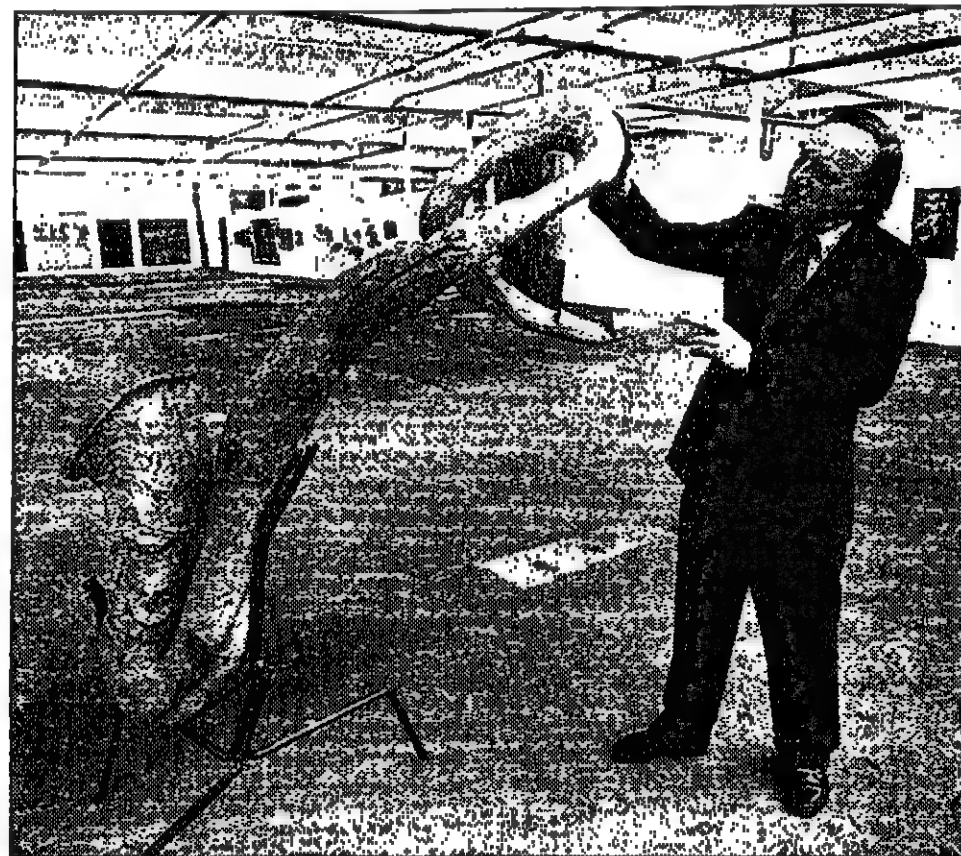
Ironically, its fate proved to be the turning point in Calderdale's fortunes. A year after closure, the mill was acquired by Ernest Hall, an extrovert and entrepreneurial businessman with a passion for music and art.



Within a month the first 100 people were at work in a newly refurbished section of the mill, now called the Dean Clough Industrial Park. Today about 2,500 people are working for more than 200 companies housed under the same, enormous roof and generating a £300 million turnover. The park is Europe's largest wholly private industrial regeneration project. As well as creating new investment and jobs, it has become a centre for art, music, culture and education.

In December 1986, Business in the Community, which has the Prince as its president, announced that Calderdale was to be the pilot project for a new kind of partnership, involving business leaders, the local council and the community working together to create their own regeneration.

Most of the jobs are in the service sector, in which the Halifax Building Society leads the way. Three years ago, 1,000 of its staff worked in Calderdale. By the middle of the present decade, that number could approach 4,000 in a new office complex.



Artistic note: Ernest Hall with an art design graduate exhibit of a wooden saxophones

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 1 1990

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FOCUS

WEST YORKSHIRE/3

Fabric-makers sew up the market

The traditional small companies in the textile trade still supply 70 per cent of Britain's needs

What does a small specialist weaving company on a neat industrial estate on the edge of the market town of Wetherby have in common with grateful helicopter pilots with the US Marines?

The link, a vital, life-saving one, is a small square of bright yellow fabric on the desk of Dr Graham Ford, the managing director of Arville Textiles.

In larger batches, the specially woven fabric, made from the type of high-tenacity modified nylon in bullet-proof vests, forms the automatically inflating bag inside the buoyancy pods, designed and made in Britain, that keep the Marines' latest helicopters afloat if they have to ditch into the sea.

Arville is the only supplier of the fabric. The contract is an example of how the company, small compared with the giants of the textile world, manages to survive and thrive in an increasingly competitive world market.

The company has 85 looms and 60 workers operating on a two-shift, five-day system. It has a turnover of about £2.5 million. Its technical diversity, not its size, marks it out as special.

Dr Ford says Arville's range of weaving interests is probably unique in Britain. Since the company was formed almost 40 years ago, it has produced about 600 types of fabric for different uses. A sample of every product is stored in



Quick work: Dr Graham Ford is the managing director of Arville Textiles, which specializes in carrying out complex specifications rapidly

an array of green metal files in the company offices.

Arville offers its customers, including the Ministry of Defence and aerospace companies, the ability to meet complex specifications quickly, especially for amounts of material that would not be a good financial proposition for the larger companies.

Dr Ford, who has been in the industry for 20 years, the past three as Arville's managing director, says: "There is no other company quite like us in this country. Most others have rationalized down for production purposes. Without the flexibility we have, we could not have offered the service and we

would no longer be here." The success of a company such as Arville reflects the ingenuity and technical expertise thriving within the textile industry throughout West Yorkshire, which has had to face the dramatic upheavals of changing technologies and fierce foreign competition.

The area has been synonymous with textiles since the beginning of the 19th century. It became the centre of wool textile manufacturing, a position it still holds, although it is much less dominant in the local economy because there are now fewer companies and employees in the industry.

West Yorkshire produces 70 per

cent of Britain's wool textiles and the sector embraces 350 companies and 25,000 to 30,000 people locally. About 40 per cent of output is exported — an important part of last year's record exports of £672.9 million by the whole of the industry. It is the fourth largest employer of labour, according to the Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association.

During the past two decades the industry has changed profoundly. At the end of the 1970s, the trade that had brought so much prosperity to the region was being written off as on the verge of

collapse. The subsequent national recession provided more gloom. In the worst period mills closed at the rate of one a day and 24,000 jobs disappeared between 1978 and 1981 in West Yorkshire alone.

Employment since 1983 has remained fairly constant, although at a much lower level than previously. Despite the emergence of large textile groups, which took over many family-owned mills in the 1970s, the industry is still made up mainly of small businesses employing about 150 people.

The companies that have survived the savage recession have emerged stiffer, fitter and more competitive. Those dealing in pure

wool products and those using man-made fibres are beginning to reap the rewards of painful restructuring and expensive re-equipping.

In 1981, British textile companies invested £25 million in new equipment and, in 1987, they spent 55 per cent more in real terms.

For example, Allied Textiles Companies, of Huddersfield, a group with 2,500 workers, a £110 million turnover and large investments in the latest technology, is having considerable success in its movement away from its traditional markets and products into niche markets.

Once it thrived on selling worsteds to Montague Burton, but it has now diversified into a wide range of products, including protective clothing for biological, chemical and nuclear warfare, flame-resistant seat covers for leading airlines, and even fabric for hot-air balloons and windsurfers.

The industry still faces threats, particularly from the increased purchase of cheap imports by multiple stores, says David Blackburn, president of the Confederation of British Wool Textiles.

During the next two years the industry faces a number of events that will affect its position, including the future of the Multi-Fibre Agreement, which regulates textile sales between countries but is due to expire in 1991, and the creation of the single European market the following year.

Mr Blackburn says: "We must make sure we derive the maximum benefit from any changes and that our industry is ready to take full advantage of every opportunity. It is very tempting in difficult times to cut back on investment in plant, machinery and people, but now is the time we need to prepare ourselves to be as efficient and competitive as possible."

Industry in the Kirklees district, because of the changes brought by new technologies, has emerged fitter in the 1990s

Lean, mean and ready for competition

THE KIRKLEES area, centred on Huddersfield, has developed around a strong manufacturing industry based on textiles and engineering.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, however, the industrial make-up underwent radical changes as a result of restructuring and the application of new technologies, with the result that today it is the

service sector that has seen the more rapid growth, now providing about 55 per cent of total employment.

Industry, because of the changes, has emerged fitter and much more competitive and still provides 40 per cent of the jobs in the district. Huddersfield has a number of large businesses with international markets, including

ICI, David Brown Gears and Brook Motors, which makes electric motors.

The textile trade, too, still accounts for thousands of jobs and is a leading exporter to Japan, the United States and the Middle East.

Statistics compiled by Kirklees Metropolitan Council shows that local unemployment rates have dropped

steadily since the mid-1980s. "The growth in both manufacturing and service sectors reflects the buoyancy of the local economy and the new, more diverse industrial base of the area," says a report from its Employment Development Unit.

Industrial development continues to grow — 35 acres of land have been developed in the past year and several other sites are committed. The demand is such that very little land remains on industrial estates and the council is urgently attempting to bring forward additional

serviced land, including a recently acquired 30-acre plot at Shaw Cross, Dewsbury, strategically close to the M1 and M62.

Next month, a regeneration strategy for Huddersfield Riverside, centred on the River Colne and the Broad and Narrow Canals, overshadowed by huge, stone textile mills, is to be launched by the authority to highlight development potential. The council will also outline the environmental improvements to be undertaken.

The area's new confidence and potential are typified by

office and retail schemes planned for Huddersfield town centre. The first large office development since the 1970s is being built by Quarmby Construction for the Halifax Building Society and will create 200 jobs. A former railway warehouse, a Grade I listed building, has been acquired by Commercial Development Projects for conversion to offices.

Office developments are also taking place in Dewsbury, the second town of Kirklees, boosted by an award-winning scheme to renovate its Victorian building heritage under

the Facelift Dewsbury project. Large shop schemes are planned for Huddersfield. Two alternative projects, both of about 250,000 sq ft and including the conversion of the Queen Street Chapel into a theatre, have been submitted for planning approval.

Several proposals now being considered aim to tackle the town's lack of supermarkets, and two retail warehouse projects are also under discussion. Under one of these, in Leeds Road, the Football League club Huddersfield Town would move to a new stadium.

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by Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Future imperfect? Mitsubishi's 24-valve, four-wheel-steering Diamante and (left) the interior, laden with the hi-tech buttons and switches that can help the car to corner

The TCL computer reads the pitch of the car through corners. If it is running too fast, it decreases engine power. Whatever the driver does with the throttle, the car will slow down to what the computer decides is the maximum safe speed.

However, TCL is controlled by a switch, and what if the driver is ever confident of negotiating every corner thanks to TCL, has forgotten to engage the system?

Sometimes, drivers have to take responsibility for a more aggressive driving style. TCL serves to encourage drivers to tempt fate; eventually they will reach a point at which the system cannot get them through a corner. Apart

In fact, *Diamante*, or whatever it is to be called in Britain, is

another market entrant among Japanese cars that explores the executive sector, but has little to distinguish it from the pack. The car does, however, signify

the way the Japanese will be going over the next few years: more technology in the driver's cabin, more technology in road-holding and handling through four-wheel steering and suspension systems. So far, though, there is no sign of truly new engine technologies that could immediately make a

contribution to better fuel economy or alter radically the way in which we drive or use our cars.

of its smaller 210hp 735i sister. The bonus is that the only waste product from the combustion is water and steam with traces of nitrous oxide. The drawbacks put hydrogen at least a decade in the future and possibly even further — hydrogen is so volatile that the high-pressure fuel tank costs almost as much as the car itself. The instability of the fuel and the cost of the tank are bad enough but there is also the problem of where to get the fuel.

Pulling into the local service station for a few gallons of hydrogen is out of the question at present because the only tank would be a specialist job. So hydrogen seems unlikely to be a fuel of the future.



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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

CBI survey gives hope as squeeze continues to bite

By DEREK HARRIS

HIT by high interest rates, the uniform business rate and the community charge, many small businesses at best face tight profit margins, according to the latest survey on the state of small businesses by the Confederation of British Industry.

The survey showed the weakest investment outlook since 1981, with a prospective slowdown in price increases likely to add to the squeeze on margins in the coming months.

But in the small print of the survey there were some encouraging signs for those able to keep their heads above water.

There is an expectation among small businesses that the volume of new orders will stabilize over the coming months. After a sharply declining trend in employment over the last four months, the expectation is also that there will be stability in workforce numbers.

This contrasts with the sharp decline which is expected in employment in manufacturing as a whole.

Another encouraging sign is that unit costs, while growing strongly over the past four months, have not been as heavy a burden as predicted in the previous quarterly survey. Increases in these costs are expected to be at a more moderate rate, Mr Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council, said that while the current economic climate continues to hit small businesses, confidence varies from sector to sector, with some markets still healthy. He added: "Small businesses are facing a difficult time, but my message remains - we must not talk ourselves into a recession." He wants small firms to look more closely at the possibility of exporting to counteract the flat home market.

Those taking advantage of buoyant export markets will be able to expand, he said.

MR FRIDAY



"Well, we've completed our financial report..."

No rain in Spain for PLC

By SALLY WATTS

PLC Consultancy Services, of Southampton, has formed such a sound European partnership with Penta 3, of Spain, that the two firms may develop a "federation" covering several countries.

With a turnover of £500,000, PLC specializes in corporate security services - surveillance of takeovers and mergers, computer security and buildings security. The three directors, Miss Pamela Hughes, the chairman, Mr Robert Coe, the managing director, and Mr Richard Potts, started planning a European link in 1988 after attending a "Contact Europe" meeting in Southampton organized by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Hughes said: "We were looking for an independent company working at the same professional level as ourselves. Spain was first on our list. It is just moving into high-tech, so it is a prime market for security equipment."

"As Britain has the knowledge, it is a good partner for Spanish firms, computer jargon is in English, too."

With help from the DTI, which, according to Miss Hughes has a good system of assessing companies, PLC examined individual markets and how to approach them. Help also came from the British embassy in Madrid, which identified Penta 3, as a likely partner. The firm, a little larger than PLC, was also seeking a partner in Britain.

Miss Hughes lost no time. She



Harbouring thoughts of a Euro federation: Richard Potts (left), Pamela Hughes and Robert Coe

booked a flight to Madrid to begin discussions with Señor Alfonso Bilbao, the managing director. A return visit by Señor Bilbao resulted in the two companies signing an agreement last August.

Miss Hughes, who also approached several other European firms to ask for company information, said: "Penta 3 has a good background. What was also important to us was the company's culture and philosophy; they approach security matters in the same way that we do. They also

specialize in the same areas as ourselves and we complement them with our high-tech."

Several PLC staff have now worked from Penta 3's offices on computer security and counter surveillance for several small Spanish companies. All PLC consultants are learning to speak Spanish, French or German. Miss Hughes speaks Spanish and French.

The partners are now to meet similar firms in Switzerland and Scandinavia; Penta 3 has also

identified a possible partner for them in France.

Miss Hughes said: "But as we are a small company we need to get each partnership established before looking at others, or the impetus could be lost."

PLC provided a case history for the DTI's Contact Programme last month. Miss Hughes said: "We are in the vanguard, but we have done our homework and that is very important. It is also important not to delay once you have identified the right company."

New index shows fall in capital investment

By BRIAN COLLETT

RIISING interest rates have significantly reduced the amount of capital investment by small businesses last year, according to the National Westminster Bank's new Small Business Investment Index.

NatWest says the investment figures for the first and second halves of last year were 43 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, lower than the amount for the first half of 1988.

The statistics are calculated from the amount that NatWest lent under its business development loan scheme, adjusted to compensate for changes in the retail price index and the bank's market share.

The North of England was least affected by the worsening economic conditions.

However, the South-east was badly affected because it has the greatest concentration of service industries, which are especially sensitive to consumer demand. The reduced business of the South-east depressed the overall figure.

The bank said of the decline: "It is particularly significant because small businesses are estimated to represent more than 36 per cent of private sector employment and to account for 20 per cent of national economic activity."

The index will be drawn up every six months.

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Telnikoff v Matushevich
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Woolf
[Judgment May 16]
Where libel proceedings were brought in respect of a letter published in a newspaper which was written in response to an article previously published in the same newspaper, it was right to look at the article to assist in determining whether the words complained of were capable of being understood as statements of fact.

A defendant pleading fair comment bore the burden of proving that the comment was based on his honestly held view; that issue arose only where the plaintiff alleged malice, the legal burden then resting on the plaintiff to prove that the defendant did not believe in the truth of his comment.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Vladimir Telnikoff, against the decision of Mr Justice Drake on May 14, 1989 upholding a submission on behalf of the defendant, Mr Vladimir Matushevich, that there was no case to go to the jury.

The judge had held that any reasonable jury properly directed would have been bound to accept the defendant's plea of fair comment and that there was no evidence of express malice.

Mr Desmond Browne, QC, for the plaintiff, Mr Edward Garner for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the court was concerned with a dispute between two Russian emigrants. It raised an important question as to the scope of the defence of fair comment in an action for libel.

On February 13, 1984 *The Daily Telegraph* had published an article written by the plaintiff. It had been written for the BBC Russian service, as a probationer.

The article criticized the Russian service of the BBC for treating Russia as synonymous with communism. But it also criticized the service for employing too many recruits from among the ethnic minor-

ities of the Soviet Empire, and not enough from among those who "associate themselves ethnically, spiritually or religiously with Russian people".

The defendant was a Russian Jew, who, like the plaintiff, had suffered persecution in Russia before coming as an emigrant to this country. He too had been employed at the relevant time by the Russian service of the BBC but he had never met the plaintiff.

He had been much incensed by the plaintiff's article. He had regarded it as racist, and anti-Semitic. He had written a letter to the editor of *The Daily Telegraph* on February 1984.

The plaintiff had taken great exception to the defendant's letter. On March 12 the plaintiff's solicitors had written demanding an apology. On April 18 they had issued a writ, and had served a statement of claim the following day.

By his amended defence the defendant had pleaded fair comment on a matter of public interest. He had not sought to justify, in reply, the plaintiff had alleged that the defendant had been actuated by express malice.

The first question was whether the words in question were capable of being understood as a statement of fact. If they were, they were defamatory, since there was no attempt to justify.

Although that was not the most important question in the appeal it was in some ways the most difficult. Mr Garner submitted that the question whether words were a statement of fact or comment was a question of construction, albeit a question of construction of a special kind.

On questions of construction it was always permissible, indeed essential, to have regard to the context. In most cases it would be apparent from the publication whether the words complained of were comment.

But in some cases, he submitted, it might be necessary to have regard to the wider context, for example to documents which were referred to in the publication or to the publication by reference.

Mr Justice Drake had held that the words were a statement of fact. He had found that the words were capable of being understood as a statement of fact. He had found that the words were defamatory, since there was no attempt to justify.

Mr Browne had submitted that the words were comment. He had submitted that the words were capable of being understood as a statement of fact. He had found that the words were defamatory, since there was no attempt to justify.

But the letter might, he said, have been read by someone who had no ready access to the article. Accordingly, the question of construction, which he had described as purely linguistic or grammatical, had to be answered by reference to the letter alone.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Browne's argument. It was not only wrong in principle, it would also lead to all sorts of unfortunate consequences.

It would mean that if the question, fact or comment, had fallen to be decided by the jury, the judge would have had to direct the jury that they had to refer to the article in question whether any comment was fair or not, but must not refer to the article in deciding whether it was comment at all.

His Lordship could not regard that as a desirable result. So he would hold that it was permissible for the court to look at the article as well as the letter in deciding whether the words complained of were a statement of fact or comment.

The judge had, however, been at fault in deciding the question without reference to the article. His Lordship found himself in the same position.

The second question was whether there was any evidence that the comment was unfair. The judge had adopted a conventional approach to that question. He had referred to a number of well known authorities, and had concluded:

"It is clear from the authorities that the test for fair comment is an objective one, and that the legal question to be considered is whether a honest-minded man might honestly hold the views stated as comments on the facts on which those comments were made."

His Lordship agreed. In an earlier judgment the judge had said: "Where a comment is made on a matter of public interest, the defendant who relies on the plea of fair comment does not have to prove that the comment is an honest expression of his view."

As the argument was developed before the court, another test had begun to take shape. By the end of his reply Mr Browne was contending that in every case where a defendant relied on fair comment, he had a two-fold burden to discharge, as follows: (i) he had to satisfy the objective test; (ii) he had to prove that the comment had represented his real opinion.

That change of direction had brought the court face to face with a question of major importance in the law of defamation, namely, whether the decision of the majority of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Chernesky v Armadale Publishers Ltd* ((1979) 90 D.L.R. (3d) 321) represented the law of England.

Before consideration of that point there was the question whether it would have been open to the jury to have found that the view expressed by the defendant had been one which a honest-minded man might honestly hold.

His Lordship was subject to a doubt whether the judge was right to reach that conclusion. Mr Browne contended that no comment could be fair unless it was the honest opinion of the person making the comment.

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His Lordship agreed. In an earlier judgment the judge had said: "Where a comment is made on a matter of public interest, the defendant who relies on the plea of fair comment does not have to prove that the comment is an honest expression of his view."

was fair by the objective test, it was presumed to be the honest expression of his view unless the plaintiff pleaded and proved express malice.

Where the defence was qualified privilege, the law presumed honest belief in the truth of what was published, unless the contrary was proved: see *Horrocks v Lowe* ((1975) AC 135, 149) per Lord Diplock. The same was true of the defence of fair comment.

The only textbook authority relied on by the plaintiff was *Gale on Libel and Slander* (8th edition (1981) para 129).

"Honest opinion" published without malice: Comment must be published honestly in that it is the expression of the defendant's real opinion. The law does not protect the expression of an opinion not honestly held, even if it is an opinion which someone else might honestly have held.

It was that paragraph which was quoted by the majority in *Chernesky's* case.

If it was saying that honesty of belief was an essential element in the defence of fair comment on which the burden of proof lay on the plaintiff irrespective of malice, it was impossible to reconcile it with paragraphs 747 and 792 of the same work. In that somewhat confused state, his Lordship could not regard his Lordship's authority as authoritative.

Turning to the cases, there were, of course, numerous references to honesty as being "the cardinal test", and other similar expressions. But all those references, without exception, fell into one of two classes. They were either cases where a contrast was being drawn between what was fair for the purposes of fair comment and what was reasonable.

Alternatively, they were cases where the contrast was using the term "fair comment" in a comprehensive sense, to include the absence of malice. Once the plaintiff pleaded express malice in reply, then of course the defendant's state of mind became critical.

After referring to those authorities, among which were *Slim v Daily Telegraph* ((1968) 2

QB 187), *Adams v Sunday Pictorial and Champion* ((1951) 1 KB 354) and *Turner v MGM Pictures Ltd* ((1950) 1 All ER 449), his Lordship said that his conclusion was that the law was correctly stated in *Duncan and Neill on Defamation* (2nd edition (1983) para 12.02):

"(a) The comment must be upon a matter of public interest; (b) The comment must be based on fact; (c) The comment, though it can consist of or include inferences of fact, must be recognizable as comment; (d) The comment must satisfy the following objective test: could any fair minded man honestly express that opinion on the proved facts? (e) Even though the comment satisfies the objective test the defence can be defeated if the plaintiff proves that the defendant was actuated by express malice."

In the light of the instant case his Lordship would add a rider, already implicit in paragraphs (a) to (e), that the absence of honest belief in the truth of the comment was relevant to paragraph (e), and not otherwise.

Thus the burden of proof in the instant case that the letter did not represent the defendant's genuine views lay on the plaintiff. It was not incumbent on the defendant to give evidence as to his state of mind.

It followed that the judge had been entitled to withdraw the case when he had done so, if he had not been persuaded by the plaintiff that there was evidence of malice to go to the jury.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that there had been no evidence of malice to go to the jury. He would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDWELL, concurring, said that in the circumstances of the case he agreed with Lord Justice Lloyd that in deciding the question, "fact or comment?", the judge had been entitled, and a jury would have been entitled, to consider the text of the whole article.

Considering the whole article in that way, he also agreed with

Lord Justice Lloyd that the jury would have been bound to conclude that the matters of which complaint was made in the letter were, although expressed as fact, in reality comment upon the content of the article, or of part of it.

If, however, it were not permissible when answering that question to look at the article but only at the passage contained in the letter, then his Lordship would be of a different view.

"It would in his view then be arguable whether the statements in the letter were statements of fact or comment, and he would not have thought it right to withdraw that question from the jury."

On that point his Lordship found himself in disagreement with the view of Lord Justice Lloyd. However, that disagreement was of no consequence. In every other respect he agreed with the judgment of Lord Justice Lloyd, both with his reasoning and with his conclusion.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF, concurring, said that considering the letter alone, he had difficulty in deciding whether the words complained of were comment or statements of fact. Therefore, if he was required to consider that issue by considering the letter alone he would have had difficulty in accepting the approach adopted by the judge.

However, his Lordship was quite satisfied that the question as to whether the words complained of were comment or statements of fact had to be decided by looking at the whole of the contents of the letter and the article to which the letter referred.

That was the context in which the letter was to be construed and when the letter was construed in that context, it was, in his Lordship's view, clear that the words complained of were comment and not statements of fact.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Bindman & Partners.

Council inquiries on intentional homelessness Council need not provide undertaking in damages

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea (Royal) London Borough Council, Ex parte Bayani
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment May 16]
A local housing authority was entitled to decide that a Filipino, working and living for part of every year in the United Kingdom, was intentionally homeless by reason of her giving up accommodation available to her in Manila.

Even though the housing officer should perhaps have made inquiries about the applicant's situation in the Philippines, there was no failure by the authority to comply with the statutory duty imposed on it by section 62 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss dissenting, so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal by Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council from Mr Justice Bristow who in July 1989 had in judicial review proceedings quashed the decision reached by the authority that the applicant, Mrs Erianda Bayani, was intentionally homeless.

The applicant, a citizen of the Philippines, for some time had come to the United Kingdom for some months each year to work here. She was married and her husband and son lived in

Manila in a house owned by the applicant's mother and where she also was welcome.

In September 1988 the applicant, who was pregnant and unable to work, came to the United Kingdom so as to preserve her visa permitting her re-entry into the country.

It was not disputed by the local authority that the applicant was homeless and had a priority need for accommodation. In March 1989, the housing officer having obtained information from the applicant's mother, wrote to the applicant refusing her application for assistance, being satisfied that she was homeless intentionally because "you gave up accommodation at 14 Catlaya Street, Manila, which was available for your occupation and reasonable for you to continue to occupy".

Mr Justice Rose quashed that decision on the ground that the local authority's inquiries were inadequate. He had not included investigation into the applicant's finances, her contribution to her family's income or her non-employability in the Philippines.

Section 60 of the Housing Act 1985 provides: "(1) A person who is a tenant of a dwelling-house shall be deemed to be intentionally homeless if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation

twice a year for share options at the subscription price. Paragraph 4.3B of the agreement provided: "If an option holder ceases to be employed within the S.A.C. Technology group for any reason whatsoever, then the option granted to him, shall... lapse and not be exercisable."

Paragraph 9 provided: "If any option holder ceases to be an executive for any reason he shall not be entitled to exercise his option for an option an executive shall be deemed irrevocably to have waived any entitlement by way of compensation for loss of office or otherwise howsoever to any sum or other benefit to which he may be entitled by or for the loss of any rights under the scheme."

Mr Mickelfield had written to the company on February 3, 1988 stating that he wished to exercise his option to purchase shares on February 19. In the event, he was dismissed on February 12 and the company had refused to allow him to buy the shares.

The preliminary issue before the court was whether on the true construction of the contract of employment and of the share option scheme, and on the assumption made for the purposes of the preliminary issue that he had been dismissed wrongfully, the plaintiff could recover damages for loss of his option resulting from what was to be assumed to be wrongful dismissal.

Mr Catterill had cited a passage from *Gunion v Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council* ((1981) Ch 448) in which Lord Brightman had said: "It is not every right and obligation under the contract [of employment] that is extinguished when an employee is dismissed."

It was clear from the passage as a whole that Lord Brightman was drawing a distinction between the contract on the one hand and the status or relationship on the other and was saying that the relationship between employer and employee had terminated.

Paragraph 4.3B of the option scheme referred to the status or relationship and not to the contract. Mr Mickelfield had ceased to be employed when he was dismissed, even if some other aspect of his contract remained in force.

which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy."

Section 62(2) imposes a duty on housing authorities to make any further inquiries necessary to satisfy themselves as to whether (the applicant) became homeless... intentionally."

Mr Timothy Straker for the local authority, Mr Sylvester Carron for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that section 62(2) imposed on the local authority a duty to make such inquiries as were necessary to enable it to make a decision.

The appropriate test was whether a reasonable authority, having made the inquiries and only the inquiries which were in fact made, could have been satisfied that the applicant was homeless intentionally: see *R v Kensington and Chelsea (Royal) London Borough Council, Ex parte Hammett* ((1983) QB 518) and *R v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Pugh* ((1986) AC 484).

The case was not an easy one to decide. Nor was it made simpler by the fact that the applicant had returned in 1988 to his home in Manila, and had come and gone in accordance with the provisions of her visa and so as to resume her previous pattern of working here for part

of each year to supplement the family income.

There was great force in the submission that in order to reach a decision whether the applicant was intentionally homeless or not it was important to obtain precise information as to her earnings, the earnings of her husband, the contribution she made to the family and her prospect of obtaining work in Manila. That was the submission made by the local authority to weigh all the relevant factors in the balance.

The local authority's decision was reached on the basis that the applicant and her family had overcrowded in Manila. It would have been more satisfactory had the housing officer asked the applicant questions to enable him to appreciate fully the importance of her earnings and her prospect of employment in the Philippines.

But the conclusion was that the inquiries, although clearly less than they could have been, were not so deficient or incomplete to entitle the court to intervene.

It could not be said that the housing authority had failed to comply with the statutory duty imposed on it by section 62 or that it reached a conclusion that no reasonable authority could have reached.

Mr Catterill had also submitted that the company was relying on its own wrong and seeking to take a benefit from its own wrong. He had submitted that the plaintiff could recover damages for loss of his option resulting from what was to be assumed to be wrongful dismissal.

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TV approach puts the squeeze on objective reports

● The long-awaited NDMA sponsorship deal to replace Budweiser, which pulled out after three years, has been finalised and is due to be announced next week.

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Former cricketers bowled over by game Kinlet Vision



Kinlet Vision's trainer, J. J. Berry, who cracked: "This one is not going for the Queen Mary. This is her level, but she should also win a nursery."

Kinlet Vision, retained 3,700 guineas, completed a 15-1 double for Pat Eddery, who also scored on Command Performance.

Eddery, Willie Carson and John Reid, first, second and third on Command Performance, Crickle and Benzar, in Coomes Fillies' Handicap, were getting some useful practice at the Epsom gradients next week and all three were called before the stewards after the race.

Since they have been in Sardine, the weather has been only occasionally hotter than at home. Wednesday, for instance, was filled with nothing but overcast skies and thin drizzle. "It has helped us to acclimatize gradually," Robson said, "but I'm sorry for all those who have been out here for a rest."

Strike ban

THE transport minister of Italy has told disgruntled railwaymen 11 strikes are banned during the World Cup.

Carlo Bernini said he would not allow strikes because it would harm Italy's image during the month-long tournament, which begins next Friday.

A small group of workers are threatened to cripple the railways during the World Cup with a series of strikes.

With World Cup matches being played in 12 cities, trans-

decision to go home," Koitzburg

nd Dutch

scoreline some respectability at 3-2 but by then the damage was done.

Beenhakker will be worried by the ease with which Rodex outran his central defender, Adri van Tiggelein and the result will reopen the debate on Frank Rijkaard's best position. The AC Milan player has made it plain he would prefer his Milanese midfield role to remaining in the central defensive slot he occupies for the Dutch.

His argument will be strengthened by further signs that Ronald Gullit, the captain, is not yet fit enough to orchestrate the team

as he did before his long-term knee injury. However, Beenhakker said: "I was happy with Gullit when you think he's been out for a year."

Beenhakker has extra defensive options in the reliable stopper, Graeme Rutherford, Danny Blind and the skilful but inexperienced Henk Fraser and could make changes for Sunday's friendly with Yugoslavia in Zagreb.

Austria are unbeaten in their last six matches and may surprise a few teams in Italy where they are pooled with the hosts, Czechoslovakia and the United States.

previous showings, of the high-

look lax

In Perugia, Italy were sloppy in a scoreless tie against the non-qualifier, Greece, failing to produce a sharp attack because of poor passing. Although among the favorites in the World Cup, the Italians wasted the few good scoring opportunities they created.

West Germany played everyone on the bench in Franz Beckenbauer's final game before home fans, but still swamped Denmark in winning 1-0 at Gelsenkirchen. Rudi Voller scored in the first half.

The slow-paced game failed to provide a true glimpse of West

things went well, some things need to be worked on," Beckenbauer, the manager, said. "We tried some alternatives in the second half. For a preparatory game it went OK."

Meanwhile, the United States defeated Leichtenstein 4-1 in the small alpine nation. The United States scored through Peter Vermes, Marcelo Balboa, Eric Wynalda and Chris Henderson against a team that was playing its first international contest in 3½ years.

whatsover, it is only prudent for the Scottish management to place him under medical supervision in familiar surroundings.

Another player who will have to report to his local hospital is MacLeod, whose home is Dortmund, and he will attempt to remedy a persistent groin strain.

Although the prospect of a Scottish squad, already slender in resources, being diminished further, is a disturbing enough thought, it is not as if the Forthburgh was not short of men by habitual ebullience. "We can't here to make our players work too hard, and we finished with a blistering two-hour session this

match idea is kept alive

ROME (Reuters) — Joe Havelange, the president of the International Football Federation (FIFA), said yesterday that his controversial plan to divide matches into four 25-minute quarters would not be introduced at the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Havelange, who set the football world buzzing with his plan to abandon 45-minute halves, said the idea but could still be implemented for the 1997 finals. However he

proposal as a way of securing extra income from television. He said the FIFA's executive committee "might well suggest a trial first with second and third division clubs, probably in England and Germany where there is strong organisation."

● Cameroon are the first losers in the 1990 World Cup finals. They will be decided on Monday when they will have to pay for failing to submit their official list of 22 players by the FIFA deadline on May 29.

THE Henry Cecil-trained River God was yesterday backed from 33-1 to 20-1 for Wednesday's Derby after being declared a definite runner by his owner Sheikh Mohammed.

A spokesman for the Sheikh's Darley Stud Management Company said: "River God will run in the Derby provided all is well. The booking situation will be confirmed later."

River God was a maiden race at Doncaster earlier this month, beating Dandoon by 10 lengths.

"Punters have been looking for each-way value and that's why we've had a flurry for River God," said Hill's spokesman Graham Sharpe.

There was little interest in his stable companion and Derby

By BRIAN BEEL

BLUE Ravine, winner of the Heart of All England and Land Rover finals, has the opportunity tonight of crowning a fine season by also capturing the John Corbet Cup at Stratford.

His victory last time out at Towcester, where he gave weight away to all but Border Burg and won comfortably by seven lengths, was particularly impressive.

Eastern Chant, the easy winner of *The Times* Championship final last Friday, should go well but he took six seconds longer than Blue Ravine and carried 11 lb less in exactly

Yesterday's results

Brighton

[illegible]

Carlisle

Carnegie

Selling firm (hard in place)

2-15(1m) 1, NICE MANIA (C Hodges); 2,
2; North Sea (A Findlay); 4-17; 3, Risk
Factor (S-1). ALSO RAN: 6-5 for Alicante
4-10; 4 ran, 21, 35, 1. W Ponca at
Baltimore. Total: \$7,000 GP: \$14,000. CDP:
\$24,195.

2-35(1m) 1, ELECTRIC BLUE (J Morse,
1-1); 2, Patulous Shem (M Tebbutt, SS-
1); 3, Fleece (Kim Tindler, 2D-1). ALSO
MAK: 5-8 for Gushy (Sh), 1-4 Arbury
1-4; 2, 1-4; 3, 1-4; 4, 1-4; 5, 1-4;
Ritzers; 3 Pretty Princesses; 14 Perry's
at, 16 Pansong; 10 ran. NZ: Bazzards
set, 1% 1, hd, 1% 4, G Allen at
Baltimore. Total: \$7,000 GP: \$14,000. CDP:
\$24,195. No bid.

Wednesday's late results Ripon

[illegible]

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 1 1990

The day a Master took a wrong turning at the unlucky 13th



Troubled times: Nick Faldo found that superstition has its place in the Dunhill British Masters at Woburn yesterday. Blasting out of a bunker, hacking left-handed from the trees — it all led to a double-bogey seven. Report, Page 43.

Taylor protected from pressure by Robson

FROM STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Robson, the England manager, said yesterday that he had deliberately protected Graham Taylor from the speculation which has enveloped his probable successor.

Robson said he had wanted the manager of Aston Villa to act as a scout during the World Cup finals, but he decided the idea might attract excessive publicity.

Robson added that he did not know at the time, in March, that he would be resigning but he was aware that speculation was mounting about his position. "I knew that if I named Graham Taylor as one of my five scouts, it would raise conjecture and controversy," he said.

"I didn't want to put him under that sort of pressure and I told him that he was better off out of it. He was pleased that I had considered him."

Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, who was also being publicly mentioned as a contender, was given the same message.

Having spared Taylor then,

Robson did not yesterday disguise the extent of the demands which would face the man taking over a job which he described as "lonely". He found the solitude never more evident than at the beginning and said that for two years he felt lost and bewildered.

"One day you wake up and you haven't got a football club and you are not dealing with players every day. The players you do have are not your own. They belong to you for three days every month or so. The change is vast and it takes a couple of years to adjust."

With that thought in mind, it might be in Taylor's interests to ask the Football Association during his interview about his access to the England players. He might suggest, for example, that the members assemble for meetings and practice sessions on a regional basis rather than always gathering at the national headquarters at Bisham Abbey. Taylor's style has always been for close contact with his players, and he would probably want to maintain that approach as England manager.

Robson had proposed that his successor should be groomed, as in West Germany and Italy, but he recognised that the plan was too idealistic, given the English system. Yet each time the national manager leaves, progress is inevitably disrupted. "Because we don't cater for the changeover, we take a step backwards," Robson said.

Taylor will inevitably be deficient in one area. He has spent only one season in Europe (that was with Watford) and, during his player career, he rose no higher than the third division. His experience is limited and he could, according to Robson, be unnerved by the size of the burden he might be invited to carry.

"Every international is white hot. I had nine years in Europe with Ipswich, going to places like Real Madrid, Barcelona, St Etienne and Cologne, and those were marvellous experiences for me. You learn how to handle big occasions, but even all that does not prepare you in the proper way."

"I remember standing to attention while they played

the national anthem before my first international as the England manager and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up. You suddenly become aware of the tremendous responsibility. Being an international player helps. You've gone through it and coped."

Robson pointed out that a club manager could erase the memory of defeat within a few days or a week. The national manager must wait for a month or longer and the criticism he received was not only far wider scale; it was also becoming increasingly savage.

"You have, above all, to get results." Robson will not offer advice directly to the FA nor does he know whether he will be consulted about his successor. He would not be drawn on Taylor's credentials for the post. However, he clearly valued his assessment of players, and but for his thoughtful act three months ago, the wheel might have turned full circle. Robson was working as a scout for Ron Greenwood when he was approached by the FA and agreed to take over in the middle of the World Cup finals eight years ago.

England fail the test on video

By NICK NUTTALL

THE England football style is too complicated for players used to wet and windy pitches on which stamina is prized, according to scientists pioneering a computer system that analyses the way winning teams play.

A study of Bobby Robson's squad shows they attempt to copy the elaborate build-ups from deep positions of the South Americans, West Germans and the Dutch. The Republic of Ireland team coached by Jack Charlton, although less talented overall, has a harrying, direct style more in keeping with the domestic game, they say.

"England's players do not play to their strengths," Tom Reilly, of the Centre for Sport and Exercise Science at Liverpool Polytechnic, said. "If we played in the summer, our players might develop those types of skills, but otherwise, we should concentrate on exploiting the skills we develop in the wind, snow and rain of our winter season, most of which rely on stamina."

Reilly, who is working with Mike Hughes, a keen Liverpool supporter, they have reached their conclusions using a computer system which is linked to video tapes of matches, allowing them to scientifically plot how teams play. Researchers claim the system can pinpoint the tactics of successful club and national squads.

At the heart of the system is a device called a "concept keyboard", which allows them to chart the movements and activities of each player and team on a computer-synthesised pitch.

The difference between the English and Irish styles is highlighted in a study of a recent European championship. England's tactics, on a "scale of elaboration", reached 5.49, compared with Ireland's 3.54.

The researchers, whose findings are reported in the magazine *New Scientist*, are reluctant to be drawn on who will win in Italy. However, they are prepared to send out data to Charlton and Robson.

Sánchez defeated by her doubles partner

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

THE history books claimed another distinguished victim at the French Open yesterday when Arantxa Sánchez Vicario was beaten in the second round by Mercedes Paz, of Argentina. Just 12 months after becoming the youngest ever French Open winner, the little Spaniard claimed a less enviable statistic: no defending women's champion has previously been knocked out before the last 16 at the tournament.

Long before the Argentinian had celebrated victory by throwing her racket high into the air, Sánchez had accepted the inevitable. In a sense, defeat might even have been a relief. She can now shed the burden of being a grand slam champion and retire back to the ranks to sort out her game.

"I didn't play the same as I did last year," Sánchez said. According to some, she is not the same happy-go-lucky character either and certainly her tennis lacked the simplicity and impudence of a year ago. Instead of staying at the back of the court and playing her natural game, Sánchez seemed intent on attacking the net. This might be the influence of her new coach Mike Estep, who has worked with Hana Mandlikova and, more recently, Jana Novotna. If so, he has to be careful not to ruin the basics of the Spaniard's game because, on yesterday's evidence, concentration on the volley has produced indecision almost everywhere else. Paz, a good friend and doubles partner, noticed it too.

Sánchez was nearly joined on the sidelines by Monica Seles, who dropped her first set in 27 matches and could well have lost her first match since early March. She lost the first set to the pugnacious Canadian Helen Kelesi, who gives the ball a hefty thump but who previously had only

"I think she was very nervous and did not really know what to do. My tactic was to move her around as much as possible," Paz said. Paz's own lack of mobility has been exposed in the past, but the Argentinian, the seventh of 10 children, has undergone a rigorous training schedule this year, losing nearly 20 pounds in a belated attempt to get fit.

The new regime has certainly paid off. Last week she added a single title in Strasbourg to the three doubles titles she has won this year in partnership with Sánchez, rising to number 39 in the world; yesterday she recorded the best win of her career, though the pleasure was clouded by her friendship with the former champion.

Paz took the first set, despite only holding her serve twice, but seemed to have surrendered the initiative in the second as Sánchez's aggression paid off. The opening game of the final set proved to be decisive. Hitting hard on the backhand and passing Sánchez whenever she came to the net, Paz saved three break points before taking a 4-0 lead. "I plan to celebrate until midnight and then concentrate on my tennis tomorrow," Paz said.

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RESULTS FROM PARIS

MEN'S SINGLES: First round: A. Krickorian (US) vs S. Giner (FR), 6-3, 6-4, 7-6; T. Champion (FR) vs J. Aguirre (ESP), 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; A. Harneman (FR) vs L. Sharan (US), 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; G. Forget (FR) vs A. Ametani (AUS), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1; P. Kuchanov (BG) vs M. Kowomama (ETH), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; G. Nantawee (VUG) vs A. Jervet (SWE), 6-3, 6-0, 6-2; D. Pineda (ARG) vs C. Camporeale (IT), 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-2; 7-6; M. Jatta (ARG) vs M. Suen (W), 6-1, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; N. Kron (SWE) vs J. Scholten (AUS), 6-0, 6-2, 6-2; A. Gomez (ESP) vs M. Pineda (ARG), 7-6, 6-2; A. Manzanero (MEX) vs F. Canclotti (IT), 6-2, 6-4, 6-1; 7-6; K. Novotna (CZ) vs L. Harneman (FR), 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1; T. Muster (AUS) vs E. Wengradsky (FR), 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; M. Gustafsson (SWE) vs F. Korda (CZ), 6-4, 7-6, 1-6, 6-1, 6-7.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Second round: M. Maleeva (BG) vs A. Minter (AUS), 6-1, 6-0; L. Oldenmeyer (CHL) vs E. Burgh (US), 6-3, 6-4; P. Tardieu (ARG) vs C. Kohde-Kisilov (W), 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP), 7-6, 3-6, 6-1; J. Capriati (US) vs C. MacGregor (UK), 6-1, 6-0; S. Novotna (CZ) vs H. Sakova (CZ) in 1; D. Monaghan (FR) vs C. Tarras (FR), 6-4, 6-1; C. Lindqvist (SWE) vs M. Lindstrom (SWE), 6-3, 6-2; G. C. Amador (FR) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. 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Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-0; K. Novotna (CZ) vs R. Fairbank-Hedder (US) vs L. Allen (US) vs C. Benjamin (US), 6-4, 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs A. Sánchez Vicario (ESP) vs B. Roman (IT) and E. Spilakovic (CZ), 6-2; M. Paz (ARG) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs P. Tardieu (ARG) vs E. Burgh (US) vs L. Lindstrom (S) vs S. Martinez (ESP) vs K. Radford (AUS) and L. Soeder (US), 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; G. C. Amador (FR) vs W. Probst (W) vs A. Aalonen (FIN) vs S. Scholten (ETH), 6-4, 6-3; A. Dechamps (FR) vs E. Dery (FR) vs P. Schenck (FR) vs N. Guzman (US), 6-3, 6-3; S. R. Sakayaz (AUS) vs C. Vite (ETH) vs A. Grossbeck (US) vs R. Simpson (CAN), 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; S. Sabos (FR) vs T. Tassat (FR) vs N. Jaganovic (W) vs J. Van Rensburg (S) vs S. Scholten (ETH) vs S. Colina (US) vs J. Scholten (ETH), 6-1, 6-